WEDNESDAY
January 21, 2026

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CHANGE OF GUARD

Nitin Nabin takes charge as BJP chief

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Violent protests continue in Bengal

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DOWNWARD MOVEMENT

Nifty declines 1.38%; Sensex falls 1.28%

BUSINESS » PAGE 13

DATA POINT

Curbs on Chinese FDI

With India set to scrap restrictions, will China want to invest?

OPINION » PAGE 9

NEXT ASSIGNMENT

India takes on NZ in five-match T20I series

SPORT » PAGE 15

Ramchandra Rao suspended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hours after a video of K. Ramachandra Rao, Director-General of Police (Civil Rights Enforcement) behaving inappropriately surfaced, the State government suspended him, following allegations of obscene conduct, pending an inquiry.

An order issued late on Monday stated that Mr. Rao acted in an obscene manner which is unbecoming of a government servant and also causing embarrassment to the government.

Meanwhile, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said the government could even dismiss the officer after the inquiry based on the report.

Mr. Rao on Tuesday got an ex-parte injunction order from a city court against all forms of media from airing any defamatory content against him.

RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 3

T.N. Governor refuses to read customary address in Assembly

Dennis S. Jesudasan
N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

In what has now become a familiar scene, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi declined to read out his customary address prepared by the State government on the floor of the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, and walked out of the House.

Shortly after his exit, the Lok Bhavan issued a statement saying that Mr. Ravi had declined to read the address as it contained "numerous unsubstantiated claims and misleading statements". Besides, several crucial issues troubling the people were ignored and the Governor's microphone "was repeatedly switched off and he was not allowed to speak", it said.

Disapproving of Mr. Ravi's action, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin moved a resolution urging the Assembly to take on record only the approved Governor's Address. The House adopted the resolution unanimously. Mr. Stalin announced that the DMK would take steps for a Constitution amendment to do away with the practice of commencing the first Assembly session of the year with the Governor's address.

Governor R.N. Ravi being accorded a Guard of Honour before the session. PTI

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Governor altered policy address, says Kerala CM

Pinarayi Vijayan says Governor made changes to speech prepared by government in Assembly; only the Cabinet-approved version will prevail in keeping with constitutional practice, he adds

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Legislative Assembly saw extraordinary scenes on Tuesday after Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar had made changes to the policy speech prepared by the State government while delivering the customary address at the start of the first session of the New Year.

Back in the Assembly after seeing off the Governor, Mr. Vijayan said Mr. Arlekar had made changes to paragraphs 12, 15 and 16 of the Cabinet-approved text of the speech. While certain sections were omitted, some additions were made elsewhere, he said.

He said the Cabinet-approved version would prevail in keeping with the constitutional practice and legislative precedent in Kerala. "Since the Governor presents the policy of the State government in the House, paragraphs 12, 15 and 16 as approved by the Cabinet will prevail," the Chief Minister said.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan welcoming Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to the Assembly on Tuesday. A. JAYAMOHAN

Mr. Vijayan urged Speaker A.N. Shamseer to approve the speech ratified by the Cabinet as the official version of the address.

The English and Malayalam copies of the policy address distributed to the MLAs and the press remained the versions approved by the Cabinet.

There was no official response from the Governor's office despite repeated efforts.

In the approved text, paragraph 12 read: "Despite these social and institutional achievements, Kerala continues to face severe fiscal stress arising from a series of adverse Union Government actions that undermine the constitutional principles of fiscal federalism." However, in the speech delivered by the Governor, the paragraph read: "Despite these social and institutional achievements, Kerala continues to face severe fiscal stress arising from curtailment of advances."

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SCRIPTED ACT: CONG.
» PAGE 7

NEARBY

DKS waiting patiently, says D.K. Suresh

BENGALURU
Former MP D.K. Suresh said that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is "patiently awaiting" the party's decision on leadership, noting that "power does not come easily to anyone." » PAGE 6

Govt. can go ahead with recruitments: HC

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday said it has not prevented the State government from making recruitment to various vacant posts as per the earlier reservation limit. » PAGE 6

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

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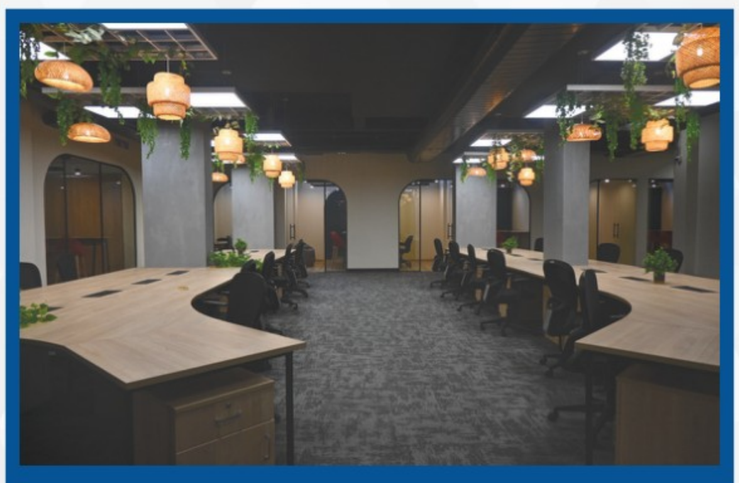

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Balancing act crucial as Manush hopes to raise the bar

The paddler, along with Diya, had a blockbuster 2025 and produced historic performances; maintaining the high standards in four events will not be easy but he is up for the challenge as he eyes Asian Games glory

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Amol Karhadkar

For Manush Shah, 2025 was not just another year on the professional circuit. It was the year when potential turned into proof – proof that Indian paddlers could not only climb the global rankings but also earn their place on table tennis' most exclusive stage.

"2025 was the best year of my sporting career," Manush, the bespectacled Barodian, says without hesitation after having started 2026 on a perfect note, a title at the WTT Feeder in front of his home crowd.

"In terms of how I developed in singles, mixed doubles and men's doubles, I rose significantly and performed exceptionally well for the country at the world level."

The numbers support the claim, but the milestones tell the real story. In a historic breakthrough, Manush and Diya Chitale qualified for the mixed doubles event at the WTT Finals, becoming the first Indian pair to feature at the season-ending championship reserved for the world's top eight in each category. For Indian table tennis, long accustomed to near-misses on the biggest stage, it was a moment of arrival.

"For us, qualifying itself was the biggest high to end the year on," Manush says. "It was history-making for India."

The beginning

The seeds of that achievement were sown far earlier – in October 2023, in Muscat, almost unnoticed.

"That was the first time Diya and I played together," Manush recalls. "We were both number five in the (Indian) team - young, just breaking into the senior set-up. That's where the idea came that maybe we should try mixed doubles."

Manush had previously experimented with partnerships that didn't quite click. With Diya, things felt different from the outset – technically and temperamentally.

"She was compatible with a left-hander, and that was a big plus for me. We complement each others' style," he says. The real belief, however, arrived in Goa at the WTT Star Contender in January 2024, where the pair recorded standout wins against fancied pairs from Sweden and Singapore.

"That's when we were very sure that we wanted to take this forward," Manush says. "Not just play tournaments, but play for India for as long as we can."

The roadmap for 2025 was clear: qualify for the Finals. A favourable draw in the Singapore Smash proved decisive, delivering 350 ranking points and placing the Indian pair firmly in contention. Tunisia followed, and with it came a defining victory – a title win against a strong Japanese pair.

"The first half of the year was very solid," Manush explains. "We got big wins and big points. That helped us a lot in the second half, where results weren't as strong, but the early work paid off."

By the time they reached the Star Contender semifinals later in the year in Muscat, the equation was simple: qualification was within reach – and soon, confirmed.

Hong Kong, the venue for the WTT Finals, offered a reality check – and a learning curve.

"We played Olympic champions, the current world No. 1 pair, and the host favourites," Manush says. "The crowd was 5,000, with all the people cheering against us."

He smiles while recounting the experience. "It felt like three against five thousand – me, Diya and Massimo (Costantini, India's head coach)."

The results didn't go India's way, but the experience proved invaluable.

"The conditions were very slow – conditions we had struggled in earlier," Manush explains. "But this time, we competed well. We were close in many sets."

For a pair that had built its reputation in faster conditions, this was a turning point. "The biggest positive was the belief that we can do it even in slow conditions," he says. "That belief didn't exist before 2025."

Tightrope walk

While the mixed doubles breakthrough grabbed headlines, it also complicated Manush's professional life. Unlike players who specialise, Manush now competes in four events – singles, men's doubles, mixed doubles and the team championship. And in a year where besides individual glory, the focus will also be on retaining India's bronze at the Asian Games, Manush knows it's a tight rope to walk on.

"It's difficult," he admits. "I have to manage Indian ranking, world ranking, singles, men's doubles, mixed doubles. Technically, four events."

The challenge isn't just physical. "I also have to take care of my body and my mind so that when the India team needs me at my peak, I'm ready."

That means planning differently from most of his peers. "I'm the only player doing four events," he says. "So my calendar has to be different."

Yet, Manush doesn't shy away from the challenge. "I'm up for it," he says. "I'm preparing mentally, physically and in my game to be at my peak for most of the year."

For casual fans, rankings often feel abstract – numbers without emotion. Manush explains why they mean everything.

"In table tennis, if I lose one match, it affects my ranking, my selection, my future tournaments," he says.

"It's like cricket – the last ball, need four to win."

The pressure, he feels, is relentless. "You are expected to handle it. That's what being an elite athlete means."

Asked how he copes, Manush's answer reflects a mindset shaped by experience – and inspiration. "I control what's in my hand," he says. "And I believe my racket will do the talking." He pauses, then adds with a smile: "I'm a big Kohli fan."

Looking ahead

With Asian Games on the horizon and Commonwealth Games off the table for table tennis, Manush's focus is sharp. "The Asian Games is the target," he says plainly.

The memory of Hangzhou still lingers – a near-upset against the World No. 1 men's doubles pair in 2023.

"We (Manav Thakkar and I) were unranked, they were No. 1, and we almost won," he says. "This time, we want to start in the top four so we get a better draw."

Clear goal

In mixed doubles, the goal is equally clear: break into the top eight and turn quarterfinals into medals. "The belief has already begun at the WTT Finals," Manush says. While he waits for the senior National championship window to be formalised, Manush has shifted entirely to the international circuit. The WTT Feeder Vadodara title was followed by the southpaw qualifying for the main draw of the WTT Star Contender in Doha before losing to Japan's Ryoichi Yoshiyama in the round of 64.

The coming weeks are mapped out meticulously: a planned break for skills training, then Chennai Star Contender and the Singapore Smash – the bigger stages that test both skill and endurance.

"I won't play the Asia Cup," he says. "I want to prepare properly for the bigger events."

For Manush, 2025 delivered lessons – about belief, balance and belonging at the top. 2026, he hopes, will deliver rewards.

"Qualifying for the Finals was the first step," he says. "Now the aim is to go back better – and do something special for India."

THE GIST

- Manush had previously experimented with partnerships that didn't quite click. With Diya, things felt different from the outset — technically and temperamentally
- The coming weeks are mapped out meticulously: a planned break for skills training, then the Chennai Star Contender and Singapore Smash — the bigger stages that test both skill and endurance
- For Manush, 2025 delivered lessons — about belief, balance and belonging at the top. 2026, he hopes, will deliver rewards

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Why BDA's foray into apartments has seen uneven results

In many cases, basic infrastructure such as approach roads, drainage networks and reliable public transport lagged behind construction, diminishing the attractiveness of the flats despite lower prices

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

For most of its history, the BDA was not a housing builder. Formed in 1976, its primary role was to acquire land, form layouts and allot residential sites, leaving housing construction to individual allottees. This plotted-development model shaped large parts of Bengaluru, including Banashankari, HSR Layout, RMV Extension, and Yelahanka, and was once seen as an effective way to expand the city in a planned manner.

By the early 2000s, however, the model began to show its limits. Bengaluru's population had grown rapidly, apartments had become the dominant form of urban housing, and land acquisition for new layouts slowed owing to litigation, rising compensation costs, and land scarcity. At the same time, criticism mounted that BDA layouts were generating land value but not delivering houses.

Apartment buildings constructed by the Bangalore Development Authority near Kengeri. K. MURALI KUMAR

BDA@50

Reinvention

It was against this backdrop that the BDA sought to re-invent itself as a flat builder. The idea was that instead of allotting empty sites that could remain unused or be traded in the resale market, the authority would construct apartments and allot ready-to-occupy houses. Flats, officials argued, would enable higher density, faster housing delivery and more efficient use of land already in BDA's possession. The shift marked a significant expansion of BDA's role.

This reinvention took concrete shape in the early 2010s with the launch of large apartment projects, largely on the city's outskirts. Kaniminike, off Mysuru Road, was among the first major projects under the new model. Planned as a multi-phase housing complex with hundreds of flats across income categories, it was intended to demonstrate that a public authority could build and sell apartments at scale, at prices lower than those offered by private developers.

Fact sheet

- The BDA's primary role was to acquire land, form layouts and allot residential sites, leaving housing construction to individual allottees
- But later, the BDA sought to reinvent itself as a flat builder. The idea was that instead of allotting empty sites that could remain unused or be traded in the resale market, the authority would construct apartments and allot ready-to-occupy houses
- Kaniminike, off Mysuru Road, was among the first major projects under the new model. It was intended to demonstrate that a public authority could build and sell apartments at scale
- Over time, apartment projects came up in Kommaghatta, Konadasapura, Doddabanahalli, Nagarabhavi, Valagerahalli, and other peripheral areas

The project, however, exposed the challenges of the transition. Kaniminike faced construction delays and phased execution that stretched over several years. The project suffered from inadequate external connectivity when flats were offered for sale. Approach roads were incomplete, an issue later flagged by audit authorities. Despite being priced lower than comparable private apartments, demand remained weak, highlighting the limits of affordability when basic infrastructure is absent.

Nevertheless, the BDA expanded its flat-building programme. Over the next decade, apartment projects came up in Kommaghatta, Konadasapura, Doddabanahalli, Nagarabhavi, Valagerahalli, and other peripheral areas. According to official estimates, around 12,000 flats were constructed across these projects. Allotments were carried out through notifications, with repeated booking rounds in projects where demand failed to pick up initially. The BDA has even organised multiple walk-in flat sale melas, but is still stuck with unsold inventory.

Unsold inventory

The outcomes of this push have been uneven. Across several projects, a large number of flats, around 3,000, remain unsold years after completion. Location has emerged as a key factor.

Most projects are situated far from major employment hubs, metro corridors, schools and hospitals. In many cases, basic infrastructure such as approach roads, drainage networks and reliable public transport lagged behind construction, diminishing the attractiveness of the flats despite lower prices. Water availability has been another persistent concern. Several BDA apartment complexes did not have assured Cauvery water supply at the time of allotment and depended instead on borewells or tanker water.

For those who did move in, the experience has been mixed. "We moved in thinking that the basics would improve over time, but even now there is confusion about maintenance and common facilities. No one is clear about who is responsible once possession is given," said N. Manjunath Swamy, a resident of Yelahanka.

In several instances, flats were structurally complete but could not be handed over because statutory approvals from fire services or electricity supply agencies were pending. As a result, finished houses remained legally unsaleable. In some projects, the absence of clear timelines for approvals further prolonged uncertainty for both the authority and potential buyers.

Residents who eventually took possession have also pointed to delays in completing common amenities, unclear maintenance arrangements and slow formation of resident welfare associations. "Unlike private developers, BDA's post-possession mechanisms have lacked clarity, leaving many like us, dependent on the authority for extended periods," said Sahana Bhat.

(In this series, we look at the evolution of the BDA as it turns 50 years old)

Man booked for fraud at airport

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officials with the help of Immigration officials at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) caught a 52-year-old United Kingdom national for attempting to misuse travel documents to facilitate illegal international travel.

The accused has been identified as Kandiah Rajagopal, a resident of Northolt Town of West London, who was scheduled to travel to the U.K. on Sunday. Officials said Rajagopal had reached the security hold area of the international terminal, where his movements raised suspicion. The matter was brought to the notice of the CISF, which in turn alerted Immigration authorities.

Rajagopal was subsequently detained and questioned by Immigration officials at around 5.30 p.m. on the same day.

During verification, officials found discrepancies related to another Sri Lankan national, Sharusan Kunasekaran, who was scheduled to depart to Singapore. However, records revealed that Kunasekaran neither boarded the flight nor exited through the departure area. Immigration officials suspect that Kunasekaran took the boarding pass clearance of Rajgopal, and that he may have illegally travelled using the London-bound flight.

Korean alleges sexual harassment during immigration check

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 32-year-old Korean national has alleged sexual harassment by airport staff on the pretext of a routine check at the Kempegowda International Airport on Monday. According to the complaint filed by the victim, a businesswoman, the incident occurred when she was undergoing immigration clearance for an international journey.

The accused identified as Mohammed Affan Ahmed, a ground staff hired on a contract basis for security check, allegedly stopped her for additional verification, citing an issue with the check-in baggage, and ticket.

A file photo of the Kempegowda International Airport.

The complainant stated that she was taken to the men's washroom under the pretext of further inspection and subjected to an intrusive physical search without her consent.

She alleged that the staff inappropriately touched her during the process, causing severe discomfort and humiliation. Despite objecting to the manner of inspection, the staffer allegedly continued the search and left her after saying "thank you" .

The complainant claimed the actions amounted to sexual harassment and violated his dignity and personal privacy. The incident left her traumatised and distressed. Following the incident, she approached the authorities seeking legal action against the official concerned.

In the spotlight

A visitor checking out handmade lights during Karigar Bazaarat at Jayamahal Palace on Tuesday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Varsities must promote innovation: Governor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Universities must actively promote innovations that provide solutions to challenges in rural development, healthcare, education, environment, and digital inclusion, said Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot while inaugurating the two-day South Zone Vice Chancellors' Conference-2026 in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

The conference was jointly organised by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and hosted by Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS).

Emphasising that India's aspiration to become an innovation-driven global superpower depends on universities functioning as centres of entrepreneurship, he urged institutions to expose students to emerging technologies, encourage self-employment, and strengthen university-industry collaboration.

Highlighting South India's leadership in education, science, and technology, he described Bengaluru as a model city showcasing successful synergy between academia and industry.

Charter of rights for People Living with HIV and ART to be placed before State conclave

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A charter of rights calling for zero tolerance for stigma, denial and discrimination in healthcare, education, workplaces, prisons, shelters and social protection schemes for people living with HIV in Karnataka will be placed for endorsement at the State HIV Conclave 2026, "Jeevotsava", to be held here on Wednesday.

Drafted by the Karnataka Network of Positive People (KNP), which now uses the term People Living with HIV and ART (PLHA), the charter outlines rights-based guarantees that PLHA say are essential to strengthen the State's HIV response.

What it seeks

The proposed charter seeks to ensure dignity and non-discrimination, privacy and confidentiality of HIV status, access to comprehensive health services, and functional accountability mechanisms across government departments.

It also emphasises service access for communities facing intersecting stigma, including sex workers, transgender persons, sexual minorities and people who inject drugs.

Around 400 PLHA from 30 districts, including nearly 70 youth, are expected to participate in discussions at the conclave, which is being organised under the aegis of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA).

H. Shashidar Shetty, member-secretary of KSLSA, said the HIV response must extend beyond medical infrastructure to ensure that every PLHA can live free from fear, stigma and discrimination.

"Our endeavour is to translate constitutional values into everyday guarantees across public institutions," he said.

The conclave is expected to highlight gaps in the implementation of the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, particularly the ombudsman mechanism meant for grievance redress.

BJP makes Ram Madhav in-charge of GBA polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after Nithin Nabin was elected BJP's national president, he has appointed Ram Madhav, former BJP national general secretary, as in-charge of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) polls.

Satish Poonia, former party president in Rajasthan and Sanjay Upadhyay, MLA from Maharashtra have been appointed as election co-incharge.

Steroid misuse emerging as major trigger for secondary glaucoma, warn doctors

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Ophthalmologists in the city have raised concern over widespread and often unsupervised use of steroids, warning that it is emerging as a major trigger for secondary glaucoma – a sight-threatening condition that can lead to irreversible blindness. January is observed as Glaucoma Awareness Month.

Intraocular pressure

Steroids prescribed for allergies, skin disorders and respiratory illnesses, and sold over the counter as eye drops, can significantly raise intraocular pressure when used for prolonged periods. Patients often remain unaware that the optic nerve is being damaged, doctors said.

India is estimated to have 12 to 13 million people with glaucoma, accounting for nearly one-sixth of the global burden. FILE PHOTO

India is estimated to have 12 to 13 million people living with glaucoma, accounting for nearly one-sixth of the global burden. Globally, around 75 to 80 million people are affected and the number is projected to cross 110 million by 2040. Despite being the leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide, glaucoma remains underdiagnosed in India.

Asymptomatic

Mallesh H., Resident Medical Officer of the State-run Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, said nearly 90% of glaucoma cases remain undetected as the disease progresses silently. "Unlike cataract, glaucoma is asymptomatic without warning signs. But early diagnosis and treatment can help patients retain useful vision lifelong," he said, recommending a baseline eye screening at 40 years.

Doctors have reported a steady increase in diagnosed cases over the past two to three years owing to an ageing population, rising diabetes and myopia, and wider access to diagnostics. However, a growing proportion of cases are linked to prolonged or unsupervised steroid use - an avoidable risk factor if recognised early.

"We are seeing more steroid-induced glaucoma among patients who use steroid medications or eye drops without supervision," said Sandhya E.S., Consultant Ophthalmologist at Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital. "Patients often feel symptom-free initially, while eye pressure rises silently causing permanent damage," she said.

Steroid responders

Rohit Shetty, chairman, Narayana Nethralaya, said steroid preparations may provide quick relief but can elevate eye pressure in nearly 25-30% of users, termed "steroid responders". Chronic use of topical skin creams or systemic steroids for asthma, sinusitis or skin disease can precipitate the response. His hospital sees six to seven such cases every month.

Adding another dimension, Jayashree K. Bhat, consultant - Ophthalmology at Aster RV Hospital, described steroids as a "double-edged sword". "Steroids can be lifesaving and sometimes there is no alternative. But while physicians routinely check blood pressure and sugar before giving steroids to diabetics or hypertensives, the possibility of glaucoma often gets overlooked," she said. There is no established protocol requiring ophthalmic clearance before initiating steroids, she pointed out.

Screening is key

Long-term steroids for chronic lung disease, asthma, chemotherapy-related inflammation, or through inhalers, tablets or intravenous routes can raise eye pressure in susceptible individuals. "Not everybody is at risk. Some patients are steroid responders and some have anatomical or familial predisposition. Screening is the only way to identify them," she said.

Pointing out that unsupervised use of steroid eye drops for allergies and minor redness, and use of products that contain dexamethasone remains common, she said that cases are also triggered by medications from alternative systems that patients do not disclose.

Under supervision

All the doctors stressed that steroids should be used only under medical supervision and stopped once the indication resolves, warning that indiscriminate or prolonged use can lead to glaucoma and cataract. They advised individuals with diabetes, hypertension, thyroid disorders, high myopia, long-term steroid exposure or a history of eye injury to undergo periodic screening as part of glaucoma prevention.

Why only female Darwin's bark spiders weave the toughest webs

The Darwin's bark spider, found in the forests of Madagascar, weaves silk that outperforms steel and most human-made fibres in both strength and toughness. Its silk has a tensile strength of about 1.6 gigapascals, around three times higher than that of iron, making it the toughest biological material ever tested

Ipsita Herlekar

One of the strongest materials on the earth is not made in a factory or synthesised in a laboratory but spun by a creature barely two inches long.

The Darwin's bark spider (*Caerostris darwini*), found in the forests of Madagascar, weaves silk that outperforms steel and most human-made fibres in both strength and toughness.

Larger webs, stronger threads

Its silk has a tensile strength of about 1.6 gigapascals, around three times higher than that of iron, making it the toughest biological material ever tested. But as scientists are now finding, this extraordinary strength is not something every individual produces.

Across spider species, body size is often linked to silk quality. Larger spiders generally produce tougher silks to capture larger or faster prey. In orb-weaving spiders such as the Darwin's bark spider, larger bodies over evolutionary time have accompanied larger webs and stronger silk threads.

Scientists from institutions in China, Madagascar, Slovenia, and the U.S. studied bark spiders to understand the conditions in which they produce the tough silk. Their findings were recently published in *Integrative Zoology*.

Three hypotheses

The study focused on two bark spider species in Madagascar: *Caerostris darwini*, which spins the largest orb webs ever recorded, and its close relative *Caerostris kuntneri*.

Egg sacs from both species were collected from Analamazaotra National Park and the spiders were raised in laboratory conditions. This allowed the scientists to compare silk produced by males and females at different life stages while keeping environmental factors such as diet and humidity constant.

The team tested three competing hypotheses. The first proposed that all individuals – males and females, juveniles and adults – produce silk of similar toughness. The second suggested only females produce tougher silk, regardless of size. The third said only large individuals, especially large adult females, produce exceptionally tough silk as and when their body size and ecological role demand it.

Dragline silk

The size difference between male and female bark spiders is striking. In *C. darwini,* adult females are about three times larger than males. In *Caerostris kuntneri*, they can be up to five times larger, suggesting that females are under much stronger evolutionary pressure to invest in tougher silk. To measure silk quality, the researchers collected dragline silk, also known as major ampullate silk, from spiders of both sexes and at different life stages in each species. Each strand was carefully mounted on a cardboard frame and stretched to test its strength, stiffness, and ability to absorb energy before breaking.

A Darwin's bark spider in Madagascar, 2010. MATJAZGREGORIC (CC BY-SA)

Dragline silk is one of the most important types of spider silk. Nearly invisible to the naked eye, it forms the structural backbone of an orb web and serves as safety lines, anchor threads, and emergency escape ropes for the spiders.

Producing this silk, however, is metabolically expensive. The energy required to synthesise the amino acids that make up dragline silk varies; some such as proline, which plays an important role in making silk elastic, are particularly expensive.

Darwin's bark spider silk contains unusually high levels of this protein, explaining its exceptional mechanical properties but in turn increasing its metabolic cost.

> We think that very tough silk evolved because it was needed to structurally support the huge webs built by *Caerostris* spiders, rather than as an adaptation to hunt any specific prey
>
> **MATJAŽ GREGORIČ**
> Researcher at the Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology

Quality and architecture

The study's results were unequivocal: only large adult females produced exceptionally tough silk. Their silk was also stiffer and more capable of absorbing far more mechanical strain before breaking than the silk produced by males or juveniles. The silk from adult males and juvenile males and females was mechanically indistinguishable.

The study also found that adult females produce high-performance silk only when it's biologically necessary. As the females grow larger and begin building large webs capable of intercepting fast-moving prey, they 'turn on' on the physiological machinery required to manufacture the superior silk.

The study also uncovered a close link between silk quality and the architecture of the web. Adult female Darwin's bark spiders build more sparse webs, with wider gaps between threads, using less silk per unit area. Despite being economical, these webs are highly effective because each thread can absorb relatively enormous forces. Juveniles and males on the other hand spin more dense webs made of metabolically cheaper and weaker silk.

Curiously, not all the properties of the silk varied with size and sex. Regardless of age or sex, all individuals produced silk of comparably high stretchability, or how much the silk could be stretched before it broke. It suggested that the elasticity of the silk of spiders of the genus *Carostris* is a genetically conserved feature – while extreme toughness is tuned according to body size and ecological demand.

Time versus energy

At the molecular level, differences in silk properties arise from changes in protein composition, how the proteins are arranged and cross-linked, and even the shape and length of the ducts that spin silk inside the spider's body. *C. darwini* has an unusually long and complex spinning duct that scientists believe could be allowing silk proteins to produce exceptionally strong silk fibre.

The trade-off however is time and energy. Female bark spiders produce less silk overall, take longer to rebuild their webs, and invest more in quality over quantity.

"We think that very tough silk evolved because it was needed to structurally support the huge webs built by *Caerostris* spiders, rather than as an adaptation to hunt any specific prey," Matjaž Gregorič, the lead author of the study and a researcher at the Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology, Slovenia, said.

The strategy pays off in the spider's distinctive habitat. *C. darwini* builds enormous webs, up to 25 m wide, suspended over rivers and lakes. These aerial traps allow the spider to capture swarms of flies and beetles that few other spiders can.

Silk production in Darwin's bark spiders has evolved to ensure energy is invested only where it can yield a greater survival advantage. The extraordinary properties of its silk thus emerge from a complex interplay between body size, sex, ecology, and behaviour.

(Ipsita Herlekar is an independent science writer.
ipsitaherlekar@gmail.com)

THE GIST

- Across spider species, body size is often linked to silk quality. Larger spiders generally produce tougher silks to capture larger or faster prey
- In this study on two bark spider species from Madagascar, the adult females were much larger than the males and were found to be producing exceptionally tough silk. Their silk was also stiffer and capable of absorbing far more mechanical strain before breaking than the silk produced by males or juveniles
- The study also found that the adult females produce high-performance silk only when it is biologically necessary and their webs are more sparse with wider gaps, using less silk per unit area
- Female bark spiders produce less silk overall, take longer to rebuild their webs, and invest more in quality over quantity

BIG SHOT

Scientists examine pompon moss in a pristine peat bog during an expedition by the International Peatland Conservation Group, which promotes the conservation and restoration of peatlands, carbon and water rich ecosystems that play a crucial role in climate change mitigation, in Punta Arenas, Chile. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Call the doctor

Q: What happens if you have a medical emergency onboard the ISS?

A: On January 15 morning, Crew-11 to the International Space Station (ISS) performed a rapid evacuation, with NASA getting the astronauts back to the earth around one month early due to an undisclosed medical concern with one crew member.

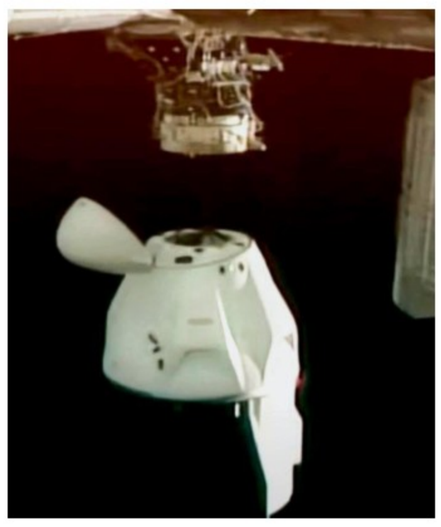
When a medical emergency occurs on the International Space Station (ISS), the crew has a strict protocol it needs to follow, with help from ground support.

Every mission includes at least one Crew Medical Officer (CMO). This astronaut is usually not a doctor but would have received specialised training to perform procedures like stitch wounds and administer injections. The ISS is also stocked with medical kits including some drugs, first aid supplies, and diagnostic equipment such as ultrasound machines.

When there is an emergency, the crew contacts flight surgeons at mission control on earth: these are doctors who have access to the astronauts' medical records as well as real-time health data. If required they can guide the CMO through conducting simple medical examinations and administer treatments through private video and audio channels.

If an illness or injury is too severe to be managed on the station, the final option is immediate evacuation. The crew's transport capsule, such as a SpaceX Dragon or Soyuz spacecraft, is designated a 'lifeboat' and the relevant astronauts can undock from the ISS onboard it, re-enter the earth's atmosphere, and finally splash down or land on the earth within hours.

The Crew-11 return on January 15 demonstrated such an evacuation.



This screengrab from video provided by NASA TV shows the SpaceX Dragon departing from the ISS shortly after undocking with four NASA Crew-11 members inside on January 14, 2026. AP

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

We offer our deepest tributes to the beacon of humanity,
Padma Bhushana, Karnataka Rathna

Dr. Sree Sree Shivakumaramahashivayogi
on his 7th Samsmaranothsava.

His life was a divine saga of selfless service
and his compassion remains an
immortal guiding light for all.

May his sacred memory continue to inspire us to
serve humanity with humility and love through
our healthcare & education.

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‘Police not in news for catching criminals, but for breaking law’

Ashok says the government not taking action despite multiple instances of misconduct raises suspicion that DGP Rao is being protected

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have recently been in news more often for breaking the law rather than catching criminals, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok said on Tuesday, referring to videos showing Director-General of Police K. Ramachandra Rao behaving indecently with women.

“The officer is known to be close to the Home Minister and despite multiple instances of serious misconduct, this government has not taken any action against him. This raises suspicions that the government is protecting him,” he said.

R. Ashok PTI

Home Minister G. Parameshwara spoke tough on Tuesday and said the suspension was only an immediate action and the government could even dismiss Mr. Rao from service based on the outcome of the inquiry. He also tried to distance himself from Mr. Rao. He said he had consciously not met the officer in the given circumstances.

Mr. Ashok said that the case of Mr. Rao was not only an individual case, but represented the moral downfall of the entire police department.

At the recently held annual IPS officers’ meeting, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah himself said that in 2025, police personnel were caught in criminal offences in 88 cases and termed it “shameful”. He also asked if the Maharashtra Police could bust narcotics manufacturing units in the State, why could the Karnataka Police not do it.

45-year-old techie loses ₹5 lakh in fake traffic challan scam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 45-year-old software engineer has lodged a complaint alleging that he was cheated in a phishing fraud involving a fake traffic challan payment link.

According to the complaint, on January 16 the victim received a text message containing a link claiming that a traffic challan of ₹500 was pending. He clicked on the link and proceeded to pay.

While the website displayed a payment amount of ₹500, after the complainant entered his card credentials, an amount of ₹5,00,000 was deducted from his bank credit card. Realising that he had been cheated, the victim immediately contacted his bank and later approached the police.

A case has been registered and further investigation is under way to trace the accused and recover the amount.

Senior Bengaluru Traffic Police officials advised people not to respond to such traffic fine messages. The police will not send any such information to the individual accounts, a police officer clarified.

CCB arrests Nigerian national, recovers drugs worth ₹5.15 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Anti-Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch on Tuesday arrested a 45-year-old Nigerian national and recovered 2.5 kg of MDMA and 300 ecstasy tablets worth ₹5.15 crore from him.

Based on a tip-off, a police team aided a house in Munekolala in Marathahalli and arrested Cornest Oneyachi Ugah and recovered the synthetic drugs.

A probe revealed that Ugah is a habitual offender involved in similar cases earlier in Hennur and Kadugodi police station limits.

Source of drugs

The police are now trying to track down the source of the drugs and possible involvement of others in the crime.

Womens’ panel demands probe under POSH Act against Rao

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka State Commission for Women chairperson Nagalakshmi Choudhary, in her letter to the State police chief and the Chief Secretary, has said that the case of videos showing DGP K. Ramachandra Rao misbehaving with women, was a fit case under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) (POSH) Act, 2013.

The commission has sought a transparent and impartial inquiry. The letter directed the police to submit a detailed action-taken report within seven days, stressing that strict punishment to the accused officer is necessary to demonstrate zero tolerance and to uphold the dignity of women.

Inspector suspended for negligence in murder probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh suspended Jnanabharathi police inspector Ravikumar following serious allegations of negligence and dereliction of duty in the investigation of a murder case. Mr. Singh issued the suspension order after a preliminary inquiry found lapses in the handling of the case and gross negligence.

A murder case was registered about four months ago under the jurisdiction of the Jnanabharathi police station.

However, inspector Ravikumar allegedly failed to treat the case with the required seriousness and delayed the registration of the First Information Report (FIR).

It is alleged that, in the initial stages, he attempted to evade responsibility by claiming that the crime scene fell under the limits of the Tavarekere police station. Following the inspector’s direction, efforts were reportedly made to transfer the case to the Tavarekere police station. After conducting a spot inspection, the Tavarekere police clarified that the incident had occurred within the Jnanabharathi police station limits and transferred the case back. This back-and-forth between the two stations led to an avoidable delay in the investigation.

Even after the case returned to the Jnanabharathi police station, Ravikumar allegedly showed little interest in the probe. Despite the gravity of the offence, he reportedly failed to make progress in identifying the accused or collecting crucial evidence. Complaints regarding his conduct were subsequently escalated to senior officials.

The Police Commissioner ordered his suspension pending action.

23-year-old arrested for wearing women’s undergarments in public

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hebbagodi police have arrested a 23-year-old man for allegedly wearing women’s undergarments and roaming in public places, causing public nuisance and outrage.

According to the police, the incident was reported on January 19, within the limits of the Hebbal police station. The accused was allegedly seen wearing women’s undergarments, posing obscenely, and moving around public areas. Acting on information, the police conducted a search operation and detained the suspect. During interrogation, the accused was identified as Amal N. Aji.

Investigation revealed that the accused allegedly wore women’s undergarments and posed in public on multiple occasions.

APPOINTMENT

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Advt. No. IMUV/Estt./Rectt./NT/2025-26 Date: 21.01.2026

Applications are invited for the following posts on contract basis at Indian Maritime University, Visakhapatnam Campus.

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2) Faculty (Naval Architecture & Shipbuilding)	...	2 nos.
3) Faculty (Mechanical Engineering)	...	1 no.
4) Faculty (Ocean Engineering)	...	1 no.
5) Senior Technician (Naval Architecture)	...	1 no.
6) Senior Technician (Mechanical Workshop)	...	1 no.

Application Form, Eligibility criteria and other details for the said post can be obtained from www.imuv.edu.in and www.imu.edu.in. Last date for submitting applications is 12.02.2026.

-Sd-
Campus Director

OBITUARY

Smt R Umayal

(W/o Shri K L Ramanathan Chettiar,
daughter-in-law of Shri P V RM Kulandayan Chettiar)
12-5-1941 to 19-1-2026

Our dearly beloved mother,
Always the earth beneath our feet,
Now in the stars above.

In deep gratitude for your boundless love,
gentle guidance, and unwavering dedication,

Valli and Muthuraman
Muthatha and Nitin
Vellachi Ramanathan
Subbu, Ramu, and Kanmani

Funeral on Wednesday, 21 January 2026.
Last rites will commence at 9 am and
cortège will depart at 10 am.

Cremation:
Besant Nagar Crematorium at 11 am

Savandi on Friday, 23 January 2026
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THE HINDU
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Qualification:
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2	Deputy Manager (Aerodynamics)	B.E/B.Tech / ME / M.Tech in Aerospace / Aeronautical Engineering	UR - 1	ME / M.Tech 6 Years

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Website link open – for Online Registration of Applications and Payment of Application Fees / Intimation Charges	January 15, 2026 – February 04, 2026
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*The Bank reserves the right to make any changes in these dates.
NOTE: Corrigendum, if any, issued on the above advertisement, will be published only on the Bank’s website (www.rbi.org.in).

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2.	Junior Translation Officer	01	Level-6	Deputation
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

International tourist arrivals worldwide in the last year

1.52 In billion. The number of international tourist arrivals last year was 4% higher than the 1.4 billion recorded in 2024, reaching its highest level in the post-pandemic era and setting a new record, UN Tourism said. Africa saw an 8% rise in arrivals in 2025 to 81 million. AFP

The slow pace of India's infrastructure output in December

3.7 In per cent. India's eight key infrastructure sectors grew at a slower pace of 3.7% in December 2025 against the 5.1% in the same month a year ago, amid a dip in production of crude oil, natural gas, and refinery products, according to official data released on Tuesday. PTI

The surge in Uganda's gold exports in the last 12 months

75.8 In per cent. Uganda's gold exports leaped 75.8% last year from the previous 12 months, helped by record prices that attracted new dealers into the sector. Gold has surpassed coffee as the east-African country's biggest export and source of foreign exchange. REUTERS

Applications received for Delhi govt. scheme for PwD caretakers

1,000 The Delhi government has received more than 1,000 applications under its recently launched scheme providing financial assistance of ₹6,000 to the caretaker of persons with benchmark disabilities requiring high support. PTI

Persons arrested in Portugal's crackdown on a neo-Nazi group

15 Portuguese police said that they had detained dozens of suspected members of a group that spread neo-Nazi propaganda and committed hate crimes against immigrants. The 37 suspects had "extensive criminal records". AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The importance of Pax Silica for India

The Pax Silica initiative seeks to reduce coercive dependencies, secure global tech/AI supply chains, and build trusted digital infrastructure. India seeks to join it as it has a strong digital infrastructure, and a growing AI market

WORLD INSIGHT

Sanjay Pulipaka

Both enduring continuities and significant shifts define the functioning of the global economy. While the North-South divide in per capita income and resource utilisation remains an enduring feature, new technologies such as semiconductors and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are gaining greater salience in powering the global economy. These technologies will have a significant impact on the everyday lives of many people around the world. Consequently, there is now a growing urgency to secure the supply of Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and to nurture manufacturing processes associated with these technologies.

On December 12, 2025, the U.S. convened the inaugural Pax Silica Summit to secure the supply chain of critical minerals and build advanced manufacturing and logistics capabilities critical to new frontier technologies such as semiconductors and AI. 'Pax' in Latin means 'peace' and 'Silica' is a key compound used in chip manufacturing – taken together they suggest that the supply chain for new technologies should promote peace and prosperity. The Pax Silica Declaration noted that the initiative seeks to reduce coercive dependencies, secure global tech/AI supply chains, and build trusted digital infrastructure.

Major participants

The membership of the Pax Silica is evolving. While the U.S. and Japan are technological powerhouses, Australia is the leading exporter of Lithium (a key component in rechargeable batteries and digital products) and has significant REE deposits. The Netherlands has leading firms such as ASML, which develop advanced lithography technology that enables semiconductor chip engineering, while South Korea is well-known for its manufacturing prowess in memory chips. Singapore also has a long history of chip manufacturing in collaboration with leading U.S. firms. Israel has made significant strides in AI software, defence-related technologies and cybersecurity. Moreover, the United Kingdom has the third-largest AI market and a robust innovation ecosystem, which includes established research labs and start-ups. Qatar and the United Arab Emirates command large investment funds and have initiated measures to develop world-class AI ecosystems.

Canada, the European Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Taiwan participated in the inaugural Pax Silica Summit as observers, and they may be admitted as members at a later date.

Countering China

Pax Silica is a response to new geopolitical realities. There are concerns that China has emerged as a principal supplier of REEs and acquired the capability to shape the global flow of these resources. In recent years, China has restricted the flow of critical resources to achieve its desired political and economic ends. Last year, in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff policies, China suspended the export of REEs to the U.S. and other countries. India also experienced disruptions to the import of rare-earth magnets from China, negatively impacting the country's automobile and electronics industries. The supply of rare-earth magnets to India was restored only after Indian companies complied with China's stringent licensing regulations, which included providing an undertaking that imported rare-earth magnets would not be used for defence or dual-use purposes.

Global demand: A view of a rare earth processing plant in Dingnan County, Ganzhou, in eastern China's Jiangxi province, on November 20, 2025. AFP

Even before the recent challenges in accessing REEs, the pandemic demonstrated the limitations of supply chains that are heavily reliant on a single country. In 2021, India, along with Australia and Japan, launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative. India was also working with the Quad countries to strengthen the supply chain resilience of critical and emerging technologies. The Quad Critical Minerals Initiative was launched at the foreign ministers' meeting in Washington in 2025. Interestingly, despite being a member of the above-mentioned initiatives, India was not invited to the inaugural meeting of Pax Silica. However, on January 12, the new U.S. Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, in his arrival speech, stated that India will soon be invited to join the Pax Silica.

India's challenges

What would India bring to the table in the Pax Silica? Indian and American firms have a history of healthy collaboration in the technology domain. India has a strong digital infrastructure, and its AI market is growing rapidly, with many enterprises adopting AI solutions. It is also true that India's AI and semiconductor ecosystems are well behind those of Pax Silica countries. However, it should be noted that India has launched AI and Semiconductor Missions with substantial financial allocations in recent years. While Indian private companies such as the Tatas have invested in the semiconductor segment, leading U.S. chip manufacturers such as Micron have also invested in India. There has also been a steady increase in the number of newly funded AI companies in India. Furthermore, India is sending a large number of educated young people to pursue graduate and PhD programmes in computer science and related fields in the U.S. If the current U.S. visa policies persist, many of these engineers will have to return to their home country, providing India with a large, highly trained human resource pool to power AI and semiconductor industries.

Moreover, India has been working to develop resilient semiconductor supply chains with other Pax Silica countries such as Japan and Singapore. Indian private-sector companies are also collaborating with Israeli firms to establish semiconductor fabrication plants in India. By participating in the Pax Silica, India can scale-up its collaborations with other countries to develop robust semiconductor and AI ecosystems in the country.

However, India will need to be mindful of a few challenges that it needs to navigate carefully. Thus far, the member countries of the Pax Silica, in addition to their technological strengths, are U.S. allies and high-income countries. If India decides to join the Pax Silica, it will be the first developing country to do so. India will also be the first non-ally (but a strategic partner) of the U.S. to join the Pax Silica. This may create an 'expectation gap' between India and the other members of Pax Silica. While India's response to global security threats may not undermine the interests of the U.S. and its allies, it will differ in nuance. India will be keen to ensure that its strategic autonomy is not diluted through its participation in the Pax Silica.

As a developing country, India has relatively young semiconductor and AI ecosystems compared with those of other Pax Silica countries. Consequently, India will seek to protect its semiconductor and AI ecosystems by granting domestic firms preferential treatment through subsidies, government procurement, and calibrated import regulations. While the current mood in Washington may not be in agreement with such policy measures, it remains unclear how other Pax Silica countries will respond to such initiatives.

The road ahead

At the moment, China is a leading player in the REE supply chain and has already instituted export control regulations to preserve its dominant position.

Beijing has also not demonstrated a willingness to create REE supply chains that are sensitive to the development needs of emerging economies such as India. It is likely that the Pax Silica will come up with its own export regulation framework. Over time, two REE supply chains will dominate the global economy, namely that of China's and Pax Silica's. Given the history of collaboration between Indian and Western firms in information technology and related domains, India may lean towards the Pax Silica.

However, given the current strain in economic relations with the U.S., India may seek to have more conversations to better understand the possible trajectory of Pax Silica's evolution.

Sanjay Pulipaka is the Chairperson of the Politeia Research Foundation. The views expressed here are personal.

THE GIST

- On December 12, 2025, the United States (U.S.) convened the inaugural Pax Silica Summit to secure the supply chain of critical minerals and build advanced manufacturing and logistics capabilities critical to new frontier technologies such as semiconductors and AI.
- Pax Silica is a response to new geopolitical realities. There are concerns that China has emerged as a principal supplier of REEs and acquired the capability to shape the global flow of these resources.
- As a developing country, India has relatively young semiconductor and AI ecosystems compared with those of other Pax Silica countries.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-393(4)/2025-26/4909-14 Date: 20.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No:KPTCL/SEE/TR(O)/C-S/EE(O)/AEE-4/JE-1/24-25/EPR-82 CALL-5 Dated: 01.02.2025 for **"Design, manufacturing, testing, and supply of 14 nos. of 66KV Class Potential Transformers (0.2 Accuracy), 31.5KA rating of ratio 66KV/√3/110V/√3-110V/√3-110V/√3 (with Marshalling Boxes and without Mounting Structures) conforming to KPTCL Technical Specifications F.O.R.D at Stores/ Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading for the use at various sub-stations coming under Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL Bengaluru"**

The bids will be received through KPP mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL' or to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 22.01.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer(Ele.), Tr(Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

RANI CHANNAMMA UNIVERSITY

Vidyasangama, National Highway – 04, Bhootaramanahatti, Belagavi – 591156 (**NAAC Accredited with B+ Grade - 2021**)

E-mail: registrar@rcub.ac.in, aee@rcub.ac.in **Phone No.:** 0831-2565203/242 Office of the Registrar

Ref: RCU/Belagavi/RO/BS/2025-26/5552 **Date:20.01.2026**

: Press Note:

Short term Tender Notification

The Registrar, Rani Channamma University Belagavi invites **7** days short term tender for "**Construction of internal roads, retaining walls & other works in the premises of Rani Channamma University, New campus Hirebagewadi, Belagavi**" (RCUB/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT14) on **20.01.2026, 5.30 PM**. Desired eligible Bidder may apply before **27.01.2026 by 5.30 PM** through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and the estimated amount for the **tender work is Rs. 9.31 Cr. and EMD amount is Rs. 13,96,500/-** and for further information kindly visit University website www.rcub.ac.in or the Engineering Division at University

Sd/-
The Registrar

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd.

(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Regd. Office: Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, # 22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indira Nagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 038 Ph: 080-25196124-129, Fax: 080-25196110 E-mail: info@kuidfc.com, website: www.kuidfc.com

No.: KIUWMIP/T-1/RNB/Add-work/2025-26 Date: 20.01.2026

SHORT TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

KUIDFC invites services under KIUWMIP for below mentioned project from the eligible consultants. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Service	EMD in Rs.
1	Consultancy Services for Survey, Design, detailed project report and bid documents for 24/7 water supply system to extended layouts for Ranebennur City.	**50,000/- (Fifty Thousand Only)**

(1) Tender Publish Date: **21.01.2026**, **(2)** Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **28.01.2026 Time: 11:30 AM**, **(3)** Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **11.02.2026 Time: 5:30 PM**, **(4)** Technical bid: **13.02.2026 Time: 11:30 AM**, (5) Financial bid: **19.02.2026 Time: 11:30 AM**.

Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPPP **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**. Any further notification will be through KPPP and KUIDFC official website only.

DIPR/CP/LC/5108/2025-26

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
KIUWMIP-KUIDFC, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
(BHADRA COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, MALAVAGOPPA, SHIVAMOGGA)

ಸಂ:ಕಾ.ಇಂ/ಭ.ಕಾ/ಬಿ–2/ರಾಬೆ/4705-132/CALL-03/2025-26/680

Dt : 16.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION IFT-12

(Through KPPP-Portal only)

On behalf of the Administrator, Bhadra CADA, Malavagoppa, Shivamogga, The under signed invites tenders under the H/A 4705-132 from Class-III &above contractors for 01Sub surface drainage package workswhich Amount to Rs. **60.00** Lakhs, for the year 2025-26. The tenders are invited in (KW-3) bid document through http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and in two cover system as per KTPP Act -1999 & rules 2000. The bidders can access to e-tender from **16.01.2026** to **28.01.2026** till 4.30 pm, Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications is **23.01.2026** till 4.30 pm. Technical bid will be opened on **29.01.2026** at 5.00 pm and financial bid will be opened after approval of technical bid from competent authority at the office of Executive Engineer, Engineering Division No-2, Bhadra CADA, Ranebennur.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Engineering Division-2, Bhadra CADA Ranebennur-581115.

DIPR/HVR/KSMCA/638/2025-26

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1, Amurthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore-92.

Tend No: BNCC/EE(QA/QC)/TEND/03/25-26 Date: 20.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance/Quality Control division, Zone-1 invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for Comprehensive Development to roads, drains, Culverts and Asphalting to roads at YMC Public School, Chikkanna Layout, Muslim colony 4th cross, D.J.Halli old police station / Munibyrappa layout, Shivraj road, Shahadaab Nagara Cross roads, Coffee Board Colony, S R Block, Vishveshwaraiah layout main and cross road, Hanumanthappa Layout, cross roads, Cavery nagar 3rd, 4th 6th main and cross roads, Munimarappa garden, Cross roads and surrounding areas in ward no. 70 Kushalanagar, 71 Muneshwarnagar, 69 KB Sandra (Govt Sl No 47,50,52,56,57,58,59,60,62,63,64,67) (Package No 1). **Project Cost : Rs. 1200.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 30,000.00**
2.	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for Comprehensive Development to roads, drains, Culverts, Footpath and Asphalting to roads at Gosphel Street Main roads, Gosphel Street Main roads, Richards Park, Bangaragiri main road & Cross Roads, Khayoom Garden, Karimariyamma, S.K.Garden cross roads, Robertson road & surrounding area in ward 74 Sagayapuram, 72 DJ Halli, 73 S.K Garden & 75, Pulikeshinagar (Govt Sl No 68,69,70, 75,76,77,80,81,83,84) (Package No 2). **Project Cost : Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 25,000.00**
3.	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for Additional Interior Works Construction Multipurpose Building in ward to no 69 Kavalbyrasandra, Additional Allied Works For BBMP Quatress A,B,C,D,E,F Block Houses Near Roshan Nagar In Ward no 72 D.J.Halli & Additional Works To Community Hall at Sindhi Colony in Ward no 75 Pulikeshinagar (Govt Sl No 42, 43, 44) (Package No 3). **Project Cost : Rs. 900.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 22,500.00**
4.	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for Additional Allied Works To Sports Complex at Nethaji Road in Ward no 75 Pulikeshinagar (Govt Sl No 45) (Package No 6). **Project Cost : Rs. 100.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 10,000.00**
5.	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for Comprehensive Development to roads, drains, Culverts, and Asphalting to roads at Shopia School, Shivraj Road, Vijaya Lakshmi back side roads, D.J.Halli Market and surrounding areas cross roads in ward no 70 Kushalanagar & 71 Muneshwarnagar (Govt sl no 48,51,53,55) (Package No 5). **Project Cost : Rs. 400.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 10,000.00**
6.	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for Improvements to roads, drains and Culverts at Borebank road & Harries road and surrounding areas in ward 73 S.K Garden. (Govt Sl No 82) (Package No 7). **Project Cost : Rs. 100.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 10,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre-bid Meeting : **02.02.2026 @ 11.30 AM** Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore-560092 **(2)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **07.02.2026 up to 4:00 PM (3)** Opening of Technical bid : **09.02.2025 at 11:00 AM.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer QA/QC Division, Zone-1, BNCC

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ.2, ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಲೋ.ಇ. ಪೂರಕ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. ದೂ: 080 22220227

E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 18/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–01–2026

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ2 ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ–2000ರನ್ವಯ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1 & ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3 & ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** ಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸಿಒಂಗ್ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇಎಂಡಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೊರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೌಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **19.01.2026** ರಿಂದ **27.01.2026** ಸಂಜೆ **04.00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೊರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **27.01.2026** ಸಂಜೆ **4.00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

3. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **28.01.2026** ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ **04.00** ಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ನಂ.2ನೇ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/CP/5128/NR/2025-26

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1, Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore-92.

No: BNCC/EE(QA/QC)/TEND/04/25-26 Date : 20.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Only Through KPP Portal)

Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance/Quality Control division, Zone -1 invites Request for Proposal on behalf of Commissioner Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below work through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer QA/QC, BNCC. Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

	Name of the Works/Project Cost Rs in Lakhs/PMC Amount/EMD amount in Rs.
1	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for Comprehensive Development to roads, drains and Asphalting roads from Shampura Village to Via (LR Bande Office to Govindapura Railway gate, Dinnur Main Road From Storm Water Drain, Via Kavalbyrasandra Govt School Upto Shampura Village, Amc Road Venkateshwara Swami Temple To Ambedkar Medical College, KHB Main Road From Dinnur Main Road Pushpanjali Theatre To Veeran Palya Railway Gate, Sultanapalya Main Road From Dinnur Main Road To Manorayanapalya Arch, Assaye Road Cross Road & 2nd Cross Promenade Road And Cross Road, Wheeler Road Cross Roads, Cleveland Town Road, Promenade Road From Neethaj To St. Johns Church Road & Surrounding area in ward no 69 Kavalbyarsandra, 70 Kushalnagar, 75 Pulikeshinagar (Govt Sl No. 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66) Package No 01. Project Cost : **Rs. 2000.00 Lakhs** PMC Amount Reserved : **Rs. 20.00 Lakhs/-.** EMD amount : **50,000/-.**

Calender of events :

1.Pre-bid Meeting : **02.02.2026** at **11.30 AM** Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore-560 092.

2. Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **07-02-2026 up to 4:00 PM.**

3. Opening of Technical bid : **09-02-2026 at 11:00 AM.**

4. Validity of Tender : **90 Days from last date of receipts of Tender.**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, Zone-1, BNCC

HC stays trial court order allowing home food for Darshan, Pavithra Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday stayed a trial court's orders of directing the Superintendent of Bengaluru central prison to allow home food once in a week to actor Darshan, his friend Pavithra Gowda, and other accused persons in the Renukaswamy murder case.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on a petition filed by the Prison Superintendent, who had questioned the legality of two separate orders passed by the 56th Additional City Civil and Sessions Court on December 29, 2025, and January 12.

'Blatant ignorance'

The High Court pointed out that the sessions court had passed the orders "in blatant ignorance of the direction of the Supreme Court", which, while cancelling bail granted to Darshan and others, had observed that "the day we come to know that the accused persons are provided with some special or five-star treatment on the jail premises, the first step in the process will be to place the Prison Superintendent under suspension including all other officials involved in such misconduct."

No applications

It has been pointed out in the petition that the trial court on December 29 had allowed home food for Pavithra Gowda (accused number-1), Nagaraja R (accused number-11), and Lakshman M. (accused number-12) merely on oral requests by their advocates that no proper food was being provided to them in the prison without filling any application as per the procedure in this regard.

Following this order, the Prison Superintendent filed an application seeking clarification from the trial court while pointing out difficulty in allowing home food and the procedure laid down in the prison manual.

Acting on this application, the trial court not only warned the Prison Superintendent of consequences for not providing home food despite its direction, but directed the official to provide home food to all the accused persons in the case in the absence of any application even from them.

'Four-star rating'

While pointing out that Pavithra and the other two accused have not filed any complaint with the prison authorities as per the prison manual on the food provided to them, it has been stated in the petition that Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had given 'four star certificate' the prison food after inspection.

Stating that no special relaxation has been given to any jail inmate in Karnataka to have home food unless it is prescribed by the prison medical officer, it has been pointed out in the petition that providing home food to these accused persons may lead to similar demand from other inmates.

SC to examine HC's decision to quash KCOCA against MLA in murder case

KCOCA can be invoked provided the offence has a minimum punishment of three years, which the HC had cited; to this the SC asked, "what would happen to Section 307 of the IPC" which does not specify minimum punishment against murder

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to examine a "peculiar" interpretation by the Karnataka High Court of the State's anti-organised crime law which worked to benefit Byrathi A. Basavaraj, BJP MLA for K. R. Puram constituency, in the Shivaprakash murder case.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant directed lower courts to not treat the High Court decision of December 19, 2025, in the case as a binding precedent for now.

The State, represented by senior advocate Siddharth Luthra and advocate Sanchit Garga, flagged that the High Court's understanding of what would constitute a "continuing unlawful activity" under Section 2(d) of Karnataka

Byrathi Basavaraj

Control of Organised Crime Act, 2000 (KCOCA) ran the risk of rendering otiose special laws like itself and even Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), 1999. These laws were meant to combat organised criminal activities, including extortion, kidnapping and other serious offences.

KCOCA can be evoked in a case only after prior approval is given by an Inspector-General of Police (IGP). One of the pre-conditions listed under Section 2(d) of KCOCA for consent is that the case should have cognisable offences punishable with imprisonment of "three years or more".

In December 2025, the High Court quashed the KCOCA approval granted by the IGP in the Shivaprakash case on the ground that none of the offences specified the "mandatory minimum" punishment of three years.

"So, then what would happen to Section 307 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which covers the crime of attempt to murder and does not specify a minimum punishment but only says the maximum punishment is imprisonment for life," Justice Joymalya Bagchi asked.

Mr. Luthra submitted that a majority of the IPC offences, including attempt to murder, would be outside the ambit of KCOCA or MCOCA if the High Court's interpretation was to be accepted.

"The special laws would be rendered worthless. There would be chaos," Mr. Luthra submitted.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Mr. Basavaraja, argued that an interpretation of the criminal law, unlike in civil law, must be interpreted reasonably in favour of the accused. The text of the statute has to be read strictly, he submitted.

He said the State was attempting to book him under KCOCA as he belonged to the "opposite political dispensation" in Congress-ruled Karnataka.

Mr. Luthra submitted that the High Court's intervention in December 2025 has caused "serious prejudice to the case of the prosecution".

"The case concerns a serious criminal investigation into the brutal murder of the deceased, involving multiple accused and a web of threats, intimidation, criminal conspiracy and organised crime and unlawful activities.

The investigation is still in progress, and crucial evidence is being collected to establish the roles of various accused, including the respondent (Basavaraja), who wields immense political and financial prowess," the State petition said.

Justice Bagchi, speaking for the Bench, said the court would focus on examining the question of law, including whether the "requirement of a minimum sentence of 'three years or more' means a 'mandatory' minimum punishment of three years or more".

The Bench scheduled the case for detailed arguments in mid-April.

Lokayukta takes *suo motu* case over polluted lakes in Doddaballapur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta has taken up a *suo motu* case against administrative officers, including the Tahsildar, assistant directors, and other executive officers of Doddaballapur taluk, for failing to maintain lakes within their jurisdiction and for allowing the discharge of industrial effluents.

The order specifically listed Doddatumakuru Lake and Chikkatumakuru Lake, spanning 326 acres and 75 acres, respectively, noting that both water bodies are excessively polluted. The order noted that the sewage treatment plants built in 2017 at the two lakes are not functioning in a scientific manner.

It observed that treated and untreated sewage mixes with industrial waste generated by 52 industries in Bashettihalli and eventually flows into these lakes. The Arkavathi River, which originates from the Nandi Hills, flows into Doddaballapur in an uncontaminated state.

Industrial effluents and sewage from Doddaballapur town enter the river, polluting the water body. The contaminated water then flows into the two lakes and subsequently reaches Hesaraghatta and Tippagondanahalli before finally flowing into Bengaluru.

State-level competitions

BENGALURU Karnataka Samskrit University will host the 63rd State-Level *Shastriya* Competitions on January 21 and 22, on its Chamarajpet campus. Serving as the qualifying round for the National Shastriya Competitions conducted by the Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, the event will be inaugurated at 8 a.m. by V-C S. Ahalya.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **Smt. HARINI RAVINDRANATHA,** Aged about 55 Years, Wife of **N.RAVINDRANATH,** Residing at No.74, N.A.L. Layout, East End Main Road, Near Carmel Convent School, Jayanagar, 4th-T-Block, Bengaluru-560041, Mobile : 9945480852, has Lost Original Documents pertaining to the Schedule Properties such as (1) Original Gift Deed vide document No. JAY-1-02857-2012-13, Book-1, Stored in C.D. No. JAYD152, Dated : 14/09/2012, Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bengaluru for which she has filed Complaint before Karnataka State Police in vide Lost Report No. 2005072/2026, dated : 12/01/2026 and (2) Original Cancellation of Gift Deed vide document No. JAY-1-08981-2014-15, Book-1, Stored in C.D. No. JAYD219, Dated : 24/01/2015, Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bengaluru for which she has filed Complaint before Karnataka State Police in vide Lost Report No. 2005094/2026, dated : 12/01/2026. If anyone found in respect of the said Documents shall contact the undersigned advocate.

H.P. ASHWIN KUMAR
Advocate
Having Office at No.23
Corporation Complex, Devaiah Park,
Bengaluru-560021.
Mobile: 9880662578

PLACE : BENGALURU
DATE : 20-Jan-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients **1.Mr. SHAIK MOHAMMED ABDUL RAZAK,** Aged about 69 Years, S/o. Mr. Shaik Mohammed Saleha, Residing at No.57/101-B, Bhattu Street, Rayachoti, Cuddapah District, Andhra Pradesh-516269. **2.Mr. SHAIK MOHAMMED FAHEEM NAWAZ,** Aged about 44 Years,S/o. Mr. Shaik Mohammed Abdul Razak, Residing at No.15/15-15, Sunshine Hospital, CTM Road, Beside GRT Jewellery, Madanapalli, Annamayya District, Andhra Pradesh-517325, have intend to purchase the schedule property from its owner **Mrs. HARINI GORLA,** Aged about 41 Years, W/o Mr.Kumar Reddy Uppaluru, Residing at: #12/4/774,Adarsh Nagar, Near Naik Nagar & Near Cement Godown, Ananthapur, Andhra Pradesh-515001. in respect of the schedule property which is more fully described in the schedule given below.

If any persons claiming or objections or rights with regard to the Schedule Property they are required to send the same with documentary evidence within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this Public Notice hereof my clients shall be at liberty to proceed with the sale deed if there is no any claims or objection in the regard to the Schedule Property within the stipulated time.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Present V.P. Khatha No.134-57-7, Property ID No. 150200402300321599, Formed out of Converted Survey No.57/7, Old Survey No.57/6, Earlier No.57/2, duly converted for Agricultural to Non Agricultural Residential Purpose vide conversion No. ALN.(V2D)SR36/2018-19, (LAND10014517) dated.29/05/2019, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Situated at **Mariya Nagar, Hadosiddapura Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District** Measuring East to West on Northern Side **47 Feet** on Southern Side **73.6 Feet** and North to South on Eastern Side **39.6 feet,** on Western Side **37.4 Feet** in total Measuring **2178 Square feet** or **202.34 Square Meters,** together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded by:-

East by : Road, West by : Chikka Kannahalli Village Boundary, North by : Land in Survey No.57/6,belongs to Rita Rapheal, South by : Land in Survey No.57/8,belongs to Joseph Roy.M.R,

Along with 5140 Square Feet of Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor of RCC roofed Building, constructed with Hallow Blocks and cement, Mosaic/Vitrified flooring, Honne wood doors and windows, electricity and water Sanitary connection with all civil amenities.

T.RAMESH KUMAR & MANJULA RAMESH Advocates
No.1, Alisa Arcade, Near Vijaya Bank,
Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram,
Bengaluru-560036. Ph.No. 9845601026
Bengaluru Date : 21-01-2026

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No. EL/1292/Works-1189 **Date: 19.01.2026**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Maintenance, BLW, Varanasi acting or and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tenders for the following work. **Sr. No.1. Tender No.: EL/1292/W-1189 3. Name of work:** Installation of 1000 KWp Grid connected rooftop Solar Power Plant in BLW/Workshop. **4. Approximate cost Rs.:** Rs. 4,02,14,670/- **5. Completion period:** 06 Months **6. Earnest Money:** Rs. 3,51,100/- **7. Tender opening date and time:** 16/02/2026 at 15.00 hrs. For details and to participate e-tender please visit Indian railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**

PRO/BLW/E-09 **District Electrical Engineer/M.**

/blwvaranasi" Website:- www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SYSTEMS AND DATA MANAGEMENT
CENTRAL BOARD OF INDIRECT TAXES AND CUSTOMS
HOTEL SAMRAT, CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI

Email: cis.dgsystems@gov.in Website: www.cbic.gov.in
Tender Id.: 2025_DREV_889258_1 Date: 21.01.2026

NOTICE

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR PURCHASE OF REOI DOCUMENT AS WELL AS BID SUBMISSION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SELECTION OF IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY (IA) FOR CUSTOMS INTEGRATED SYSTEM (CIS)

The President of India, through the Principal Director General, Directorate General of Systems & Data Management in the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs had invited Expression ot Interest (EOI) for Selection of Implementation Agency (IA) for Customs Integrated System (CIS) from interested bidders vide the Tender Id: 2025_DREV _889258_1 dated 10.12.2025 wherein the last date for purchase of REOI document as well as submission of bid was 21.01.2026.

The last date for purchase of REOI document as well as submission of bid has been extended from 21.01 .2026 up to 17:00 hrs. (IST) to 31.01.2026 up to 17:00 hrs.(IST).

All the terms and conditions remain the same. For further details visit the e-tender website **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**.

cbc 15502/11/0050/2526

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ; CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425

Tender Ref. No.: GEM/2026/B/7114698 **Date: 20-01-2026**

Tender Notice Invitation

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/Importer/Authorized Agent for supply of **Custom Bid for Services-Fabrication work of Ambulance** The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

S.N.	Activity	Date & Time
1.	Tender Reference No.	GEM/2026/B/7114698
2.	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	19-01-2026
3.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	22/01/2026 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.
4.	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	03/02/2026 up to 20:00 PM.
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	03/02/2026 at 20:30 PM
6.	Date of Completion of Examination of Technical Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
8.	Date of Completion of Examination of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.

Managing Director, UPMSCL
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

LOST DOCUMENT

I SUBBA PAILLI LOGANATHAN son of Subba pailli aged about 76 residing at No. 35, 1st floor, 5th main, krishnappa block, ganganagar ext, Bangalore – 560032. While i was traveling from Bangalore to Chennai on 11/01/2026, I lost my original General Power of Attorney, I have made a reasonable and diligent search for the lost document, but failed in that attempt. I have also filed an online compliant FIR No. 2013758 / 2026 dated 17/01/2026 at R. T. Nagar Police Station, the above mentioned facts are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, Vide affidavit 19/01/2026 Notary G.B. Turamari, Bangalore.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Group,
ISRO Head Quarters, Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road,
Bengaluru-560094 Phone: 080-2217 2476/2479/2033,
Fax No.: 080-2351 3126

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through e-Tendering for the following work:

Title of work	**Replacement of damaged underground stoneware sewer pipelines & cast-iron pipelines in toilets, waterproofing works at terrace and other civil works at Antariksh Bhavan, ISRO HQ-Civil & PH works.**
e-Tender Notice No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/M/19/P/ AB/2025-26 Dtd: 20.01.2026**
Estimated cost put to tender	**₹23.67 Lakhs**
Period of completion in month	**Three (03) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From: 18:10 hrs on 20.01.2026 To: 23:59 hrs on 02.02.2026**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 15:30 hrs on 05.02.2026**
Due date and time for opening of tenders (Technical Bid)	**16:00 hrs on 05.02.2026**
EMD	**₹47,340/- [Valid for 180 days]**

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on websites **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and tender documents may be downloaded from e-tendering website: **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head, CMD, ISRO HQ

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT- II)
4th Floor, BSNL Building, Telephone House,
Raj Bhavan Road, Bangalore-560001

Case No O.A.No.: 446/2016. (DRC No: 2061/17)

BETWEEN:
DENA BANK (NOW BANK OF BARODA), K.G Road Branch, No 2, Prithvi Building, K.G Road, Bangalore - 560 009. .....**APPLICANT**
AND
M/s. Swift Auto Agencies & Other .....**DEFENDANTS**

DEMAND NOTICE

RECOVERY CERTIFICATE UNDER SUB-SECTION 7 AND 22 OF SECTION-19 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO THE BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ACT 1993 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME.

To;
Defendant No.1.
1. M/s. Swift Auto Agencies, First Cross, Ananda Nagar, Marathahalli Bangalore-560 037. Represented by its Partners **Mr.Sougandh Kommath, Mr.Sathish.R.**
2. Mr. Sougandh Kommath, S/o Kommath Ramachandran Nair, No.25/1, No.9, Beretena Agrahans, Near Thimmaiah School, Opposite Pillar No.165, Electronic City, Bangalore-560 100
3. Mr .Sathish.R. S/o Kommath Ramachandran Nair, No.9/1, 7th Main Road, 16th Cross, Ramaswamy Layout, Lakkasandra Bangalore-560 030. .....**Defendants**

In View of the Recovery Certificate issued in **T.A No.1497/2017 (OA.NO. 446/2016)** passed by the Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore an Amount **Rs. 59,95,748/- (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Eight Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from the date of filing of O.A. till realization of the Recovery Certificate.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay all charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within **15 days** of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **2nd day of June 2017.**

Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER-I
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2 BENGALURU.

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below:

"Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment". 3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The property more fully described in the **'Schedule'** hereto and hereinafter referred to as **'Schedule Property'.** Public are hereby notified that my Client who is desirous of entering into a transaction in relation to the Schedule Properties from its present owner **Dr. Patrick Cyril Fernandez,** Son of late Joseph Patrick Fernandez, R/a Flat No 301, Pine View, No 9, Edward Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore-560001 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Owner'). The Owner has represented to my Client that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Properties, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property is hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claim/s or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the present owner has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and my Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Property)

All the Part and parcel of House Property bearing Doddagubbi Village Panchayat House List Khata No 138/1/25 (Plot No.64) measuring 10,000 Sq. Ft situated at Doddagubbi Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk (Present East Taluk), Bangalore District bounded by:

East by : Road and measuring on that side 80
West by : Plot No.71 and measuring on that side 80
North by : Plot No.65 and measuring on that side 125
South by : Road and measuring on that side 125

Sd/- **Mr. Manjunatha C.N, Chandrashekar C G,** Advocates,
#4, 1st Floor, Kammavaripet, Behind Taluk Office, Hosakote Town,
Bengaluru Rural – 562114 Tel: 9411563479
Date: 20-01-2026 Place: Bangalore

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GURUPRASAD Hyrada, s/o; Virupakshappa .H.V, r/o: Godrej Eternity Apt, I4 104, Holiday Village Road, Off Kanakapura Road, Blr – 560062. Have changed my name as Guruprasad Hyrada Virupakshappa.

I, JOHN Michael P, S/o Pandiyan, r/at No.22, 2nd Cross, KSFC Layout, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru 560084 have changed my name as John Michael vide affidavit dtd 19.01.2026 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar K, Bluru

I, RAVI, S/o Sadashivareddy, R/at No.8-11-184/248, D-66, Krishnadevaraya Nagar, Raichur, Karnataka-584103 have changed my name from Ravi to Ravi S Patil (Ravi Sadashivareddy Patil) vide affidavit dated 20-01-2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, Gautam Kumar Shukla, R/o. Flat No. 115, Saipoorna Premier Apt., Harlur Road, Kudlu Village, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-68, hereby declare that my Son's name has been Corrected from Shaurya Kumar Shukla to Shaurya Shukla. The change has been made through proper legal affidavit. Henceforth, he shall be known as Shaurya Shukla for all purposes.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Devarasetty Swathi R/o 8, Kavery Layout, 4th Cross, Kurudu Sonnenahalli Rd, Kodigehalli, Kadugodi Post, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560067, have changed my name to Matcha Swathi

MISSING

MISSING

Ms. RUPALATHA

A resident of The Virtuoso Apartments near Budigere Cross in Bommenahalli, Bengaluru, has been missing since December 31. She is 75 years old and of average build, wheatish complexion, 5.0 feet tall, wearing a white and black chudidar top and black leggings. She speaks Kannada and English. Anyone with information about her should contact

9741000796

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY- Part-time /Full-time wellness business with training & support. Contact: 7900008858.

SITUATION VACANT

MARKETING

Open Positions: Receptionist and Marketing Executives for Newly Launched Real Estate Projects.location Bangalore Contact 8884414416

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE (SRD) TURUVEKERE
O.S. NO. 110/2025

PLAINTIFF: Fayaz Sab, aged about 60 years, S/o late Shafi Ahamed, resident of Horapete, Turuvekere Town, Banasandra Road, Turuvekere.

-V/s-

DEFENDANTS: 1. M. Ashok Reddy, aged about 66 years, M/s. Renew Wind Energey Pvt Ltd, Office NO:10th floor, DLF square, H. Block, Jacarda Marg DLF city, Phase II, Gurgaon, Haryana-122002. **2. Rafiq Ahamed**

NOTICE

Whereas the above plaintiff has filed this suit against the defendants for sought for the declare the absolute owner and void the registered sale deed dated:25-7-2022 executed by 2nd defendant in favour of 1st defendant in respect of suit schedule property.

Hence here by requesting you to appear before this Hon'ble court by personally or their counsel and failing which this case will be heard in your absence.

This case is stand posted on **23/02/2026** at **11:00 A.M.**

SCHEDULE

Land bearing SY.NO:47/2 (old Sy. Number) and another old SY.NO:47/2p3, now present new phode SY.NO: 47/8 of Gundikavel grama, Dhandishivara hobli, Turuvekere, Taluk an extent of 1 acre 35 guntas and kharab land of 5 guntas in total 2 acres and bounded by: **East by:** Rafiq Sab land, **West by:** Abdul Hakim land, **North by:** Aswathnarayana land and **South by:** Aerodrome land.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on this 13/01/2026

By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer Sr Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Turuvekere.

ASLAM, C.N. GANGARANGAIAH
Advocates
7th cross, C.M. Layout, Kyathsandra, Tumkur Town. Pin code: 572104.
Mob: 9901017348.

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Qualification: Master's Degree in relevant subject with UGC NET/SLET. Experienced and Doctoral Degree candidates would be preferred.
2) **Office Assistants:** Any degree with computer knowledge-Like MS WORD, EXCEL,TALLEY. Candidate with Kannada typing knowledge will be preferred.

Send your latest CV with photograph by Email : info@rbanmsfgc.edu.in or/and by post within 10 days from the date of advertisement.

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CACHE

Exciting innovations: A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with a Crew Dragon capsule lifts off from Pad 39-A at the Kennedy Space Center, in Cape Canaveral, Florida, U.S. on August 1, 2025. AP

How reusability can lead to sustainable, cost-effective access to space

The commercial space industry is evolving rapidly, driven by reusable rocket technologies that significantly lower launch costs. Companies like SpaceX lead the charge, with the market projected to exceed $1 trillion by 2030, enhancing sustainability and increasing mission frequencies

Unnikrishnan Nair S.

After four decades of government-led space exploration, the new millennium has ushered in a commercial revolution where private companies now lead and fund the industry's most significant breakthroughs. Space is now a fast-growing industry, expected to exceed $1 trillion in value by 2030. The application of innovative technologies, notably partial reusability of rockets by these new players, has reduced the cost of access per kg to space by a factor of 5-20 compared to expendable rockets and increased the launch cadence considerably.

How efficiently can rockets launch payloads or crew?

Human space missions are 3-5-times more expensive than satellite missions because of the more complex requirements for life support, safety, redundancy, and mission planning. These systems require higher investment in technology and infrastructure compared to uncrewed satellite missions. In contrast, most satellite missions are one-way trips built with comparatively simpler hardware/software architectures.

Rockets have to face two major hurdles on their way to orbit through the atmosphere: gravity and aerodynamic drag. To move forward, the rocket has nothing to push against; hence, it must eject engine exhaust backward in a supersonic jet.

The Tsiolkovsky rocket equation connects how fast a rocket can go to the amount of fuel it burns and how much it weighs. It shows that space travel has a weight problem: because fuel is so heavy, the rocket needs more fuel just to lift the first load of fuel. This creates a cycle where over 90% of a rocket's mass is dedicated to propellant and tankages, leaving less than 4% for the actual satellite.

Why do rockets have stages?

Staging splits a rocket into independent propulsion units that are discarded sequentially to shed dead weight. It's an engineering trick used to beat the 'trap' of the Tsiolkovsky equation by discarding spent stages in-flight so that the propellant-to-mass fraction of the remaining vehicle improves. In traditional expendable rockets, including PSLV and LVM-3, each stage is used once and thrown away, usually falling into the ocean.

The private company SpaceX brought in many path-breaking technologies, including 3D printing rocket parts, modular design, making most parts in-house (called vertical integration), and reusing rocket stages. Together they have cut costs sharply and increased launch frequency.

Reusability is widely considered the single most significant game-changer for human access to space, fundamentally shifting the industry from a 'disposable' model to a 'transportation' model. The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket's first stage comes back to the earth using a mix of smart engineering and automation. Here, the stage fires its engines to slow down as it nears the ground, removing most of its kinetic energy. The remainder is dissipated by the aerodynamic drag during its journey through the air.

SpaceX has successfully recovered the first stages of its Falcon 9 rockets more than 520 times. It's currently developing its next generation multi-purpose rocket, Starship, as a fully reusable vehicle with a more efficient architecture. It has enough power to carry crew and cargo to the earth's orbit, the moon, and even Mars.

Worldwide there are more than a dozen private companies and start-ups actively developing reusable rocket technology. At least three of them are working on the more challenging fully-reusable rocket technology. Washington-based Blue Origin has successfully demonstrated recovery of the booster for its New Glenn vehicle via vertical landing. The commercial space sector in China is also rapidly advancing, with companies like LandSpace recently attempting to recover parts of its orbital-class Zhuque 3 rocket.

Can a stage be reused multiple times?

The number of times a recovered rocket stage can be used is limited primarily by structural and material fatigue, especially in the main engines and fuel tanks.

The extreme temperature swings from cryogenic propellants to combustion heat, combined with immense pressure and g-force cycling during ascent and re-entry, cause fatigue and microfractures. The practical limit is also set by refurbishment economics and acceptable risk. As the number of flights increase, the cost and time required for rigorous inspection, testing, and replacement of vulnerable components, to maintain high reliability, will eventually outweigh the cost savings compared to building a new stage. SpaceX has been known to reuse the first stage more than 30 times for launch missions.

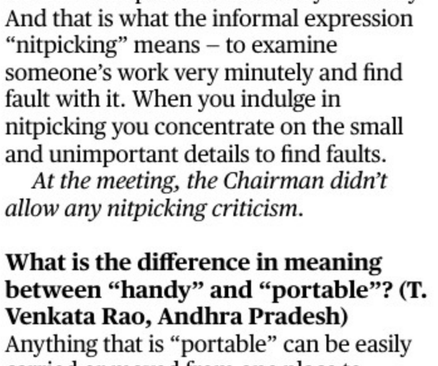
Where does India stand?

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been working on different models of recovery technologies. One option is the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV), a winged spacecraft, like a mini shuttle, that can be launched to space on a rocket and then made to re-enter to land on a runway. The other option is recovering the spent first stage of a rocket with a combination of aerodynamic drag and retro-propulsion to land on a barge or land. Technology development activities are progressing in these domains.

In order to be competitive in a rapidly emerging space market where fully reusable launch vehicles are about to be a usual feature, the need of the hour is inducting disruptive technologies that will lower the cost of accessing space. Therefore, future launch vehicles should target configurations with a minimum number of stages with partial or full recovery and with reuse of stages as a non-negotiable design driver.

Today, advances in propellant density and engine efficiency allow two-stage systems to perform missions that previously required three or more stages. A careful balancing of the energy delivered by each stage, its cost share, innovative technologies for high performance, compact engine development, recovery of stages, and refurbishment for increasing launch cadence are some of the aspects to be seriously addressed while designing any future launch vehicle.

Unnikrishnan Nair S. is former director, VSSC and IIST; founding director, HSFC; and an expert in launch vehicle systems, orbital re-entry, and human spaceflight technologies.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of "nitpicking"? (R. J. Sreenivasan)

Remember the days when you went to school and came home with lice in your hair? Do you recall what you did to get rid of them? You went to your mother! She usually made use of a special comb, ran it through your hair for an hour or so and picked off the lice one by one. What your mother was doing was "nitpicking"! The "nit" is actually the egg of a louse or any other parasitic insect. Getting rid of nits from a person's head or an animal's body is a very demanding task. You have to examine the person's head very minutely. And that is what the informal expression "nitpicking" means – to examine someone's work very minutely and find fault with it. When you indulge in nitpicking you concentrate on the small and unimportant details to find faults.

At the meeting, the Chairman didn't allow any nitpicking criticism.

What is the difference in meaning between "handy" and "portable"? (T. Venkata Rao, Andhra Pradesh)

Anything that is "portable" can be easily carried or moved from one place to another. For example, we have portable television sets and portable typewriters. Some hospitals have portable X-ray machines. The Pentagon, I understand, refers to a pencil as "portable wooden handheld communications inscriber"! When you refer to something as being "handy", you are saying that it is useful and easy to use. A handy object is not necessarily portable. A computer may or may not be portable, but it is a handy way of keeping in touch with people – both within and outside India. This doesn't mean that all handy things have to be big. An electric kettle is a handy thing to have at home. When you say something "came in handy", you are saying that it was useful in a given situation.

What is the correct pronunciation of the word "often"? (Dharmesh Shah)

The word "often" is pronounced differently by different people. The 'o' in the first syllable is pronounced like the 'o' in 'cot', 'pot' and 'hot'. The 'e' in the second syllable is like the 'a' in "China" and "amount". The 't' remains silent. When pronounced in this manner, the word rhymes with "soften". Some people however pronounce the 't' in "often". Whether you pronounce the "t" or not, the stress is on the first syllable.

Is the following correct? "There was an accident. 14 people were killed on the spot and the remaining 6 were killed in the hospital."

Grammatically there is nothing wrong with the two sentences. What strikes one as being odd is "the remaining 6 were killed in the hospital". It suggests that somebody went into the hospital and killed the 6 people who had survived the accident. "There was an accident. 14 people died on the spot. 6 others succumbed to their injuries at the hospital." This is one way of rewriting the sentence; then it would be clear that nobody actually killed the six survivors, they died because of the injuries they had sustained in the accident.

Published in The Hindu on May 11, 1999.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The ongoing protests in Iran were triggered by an economic crisis worsened by international sanctions. A quiz on the country's tumultuous history since 1979

Mohammed Hidhayat

QUESTION 1
Which country invaded Iran in 1980, a year after the Islamic Revolution?

QUESTION 2
In 1981, Mohammad Ali Rajai and Mohammad Javad Bahonar were assassinated in a Tehran bombing. What positions did they hold in the Iranian government?

QUESTION 3
After Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, Iran began funding a Lebanese resistance movement that has since gained prominence. Name the group.

QUESTION 4
In 1988, a U.S. navy vessel shot down an Iranian civilian aircraft killing all 290 people on board. Who was the U.S. President at the time?

QUESTION 5
Over 40,000 people perished when a powerful earthquake struck northern Iran in 1990. Which major water body borders the region?

QUESTION 6
In 1998, Taliban forces killed Iranian diplomats in Mazar-i-Sharif. Iran was a supporter of which military alliance during the Afghan Civil War?

QUESTION 7
In a 2002 speech, U.S. President George Bush labelled three countries, including Iran, as part of an "axis of evil". Name the other two nations.

QUESTION 8
Which malicious computer program, widely attributed to Israel and the U.S., sabotaged Iran's nuclear facilities in 2010.

Visual question:
Name the 2009 protest movement that emerged following disputed Presidential election results. This reformist opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi became the symbolic face of the movement. AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Identify the date on which the U.S. first marked Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the federal level. **Ans: January 20, 1986**
2. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed on this Monday every year. **Ans: Third Monday in January**
3. The official name of MLK Day as designated by U.S. law. **Ans: Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.**
4. The date of Martin Luther King Jr.'s actual birthday. **Ans: January 15, 1929**
5. This U.S. president signed the bill creating Martin Luther King Jr. Day. **Ans: Ronald Reagan**
Visual: Name the political figure. **Ans: Former U.S. President Barack Obama**
Early Birds: Sonali Das| Dodo Jayaditya| Erfanally Oosmany| Sukdev Shet| Daksh Yadav

Word of the day

Bivouacking:
the act of encamping and living in tents in a camp

Synonyms: camping, encampment, tenting

Usage: *They were stopped, after bivouacking, for travelling without documentation.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/bivouackingpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈbɪv.u.æk/, /ˈbɪv.wæk/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

KSRTC commuters to get real-time bus tracking through VTMS soon

The Central Control Station at the Mysuru Road Satellite Bus Station in the city, will function as the system's nerve centre

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will soon implement the long-awaited Vehicle Tracking and Monitoring System (VTMS), which will enable passengers to track KSRTC buses in real time through a newly-developed mobile application.

According to officials, commuters will be able to monitor the live movement of over 8,000 KSRTC buses, allowing them to plan their journeys more efficiently and reduce uncertainty during long waits at bus stops. As part of the project, a dedicated Command and Control Centre will be established to manage and monitor VTMS operations.

"KSRTC has recently floated a tender to implement an advanced VTMS across its fleet, marking a major step towards modernising bus operations, improving passenger safety, and strengthening operational oversight," a senior official told *The Hindu*.

As per the tender document, VTMS will be an integrated, AIS-140-compliant platform designed to track buses in real time, monitor adherence to routes and schedules, generate operational alerts, and respond to emergencies through panic buttons installed inside buses. The system will combine vehicle-mounted hardware, backend software applications, and a Central Control Station (CCS) to enable round-the-clock monitoring.

Apart from the existing buses, KSRTC plans to induct 735 new buses, all of which will be brought under the VTMS framework. FILE PHOTO

VTMS at a glance

Coverage: Entire fleet of 8,305 buses (including 735 upcoming buses)

Control centre: Mysuru Road Satellite Bus Station, Bengaluru

Key features
- Real-time bus tracking via mobile app
- Estimated arrival and departure times
- Route and schedule monitoring
- Panic buttons for emergencies
- Passenger information through displays and announcements

Source: KSRTC

Emergency buttons

"KSRTC currently operates a fleet of 8,305 buses, of which 1,286 already have AIS-140-certified vehicle tracking devices and emergency buttons. Under the proposed project, VTMS will be deployed across the entire fleet, including existing and future vehicles, with provisions to integrate already installed devices," the official explained.

Apart from the existing buses, KSRTC plans to induct 735 new buses, all of which will also be brought under the VTMS framework.

"Each bus will be fit with a Vehicle Tracking Unit (VTU) connected to GNSS/IRNSS satellites and cellular networks. These units will transmit location data at fixed intervals every 10 seconds for city services and every 60 seconds for other services along with alerts on speeding, route deviation, unauthorised stoppages, bunching of buses, and missed trips. The system is designed to function even in low-connectivity areas by storing data offline and transmitting it once network connectivity is restored," the official added.

A key safety feature of the project is the installation of at least nine panic buttons per bus, eight for passengers and one for the driver.

According to officials, when pressed, these buttons will immediately send emergency alerts and live location data to the CCS and the State backend, with SMS fallback in the absence of mobile data.

The Central Control Station, which will be located at the Mysuru Road Satellite Bus Station in Bengaluru, will function as the nerve centre of the VTMS. It will facilitate live vehicle monitoring, accident and breakdown management, passenger information dissemination, call centre operations and data analytics for decision-making.

Passenger-friendly features

Meanwhile, the tender document states that the proposed VTMS will include passenger-friendly features that allow citizens to access near real-time information on the location and movement of KSRTC buses.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said, "As part of the Passenger Information System (PIS), commuters will be able to view bus positions on digital GIS maps through web-based and mobile platforms. The system will also provide current location details on demand, along with estimated arrival and departure times at bus stops based on live vehicle movement data."

In addition to online access, according to Mr. Reddy, VTMS data will be integrated with multiple passenger information channels, including LED and LCD display boards at bus stations, depots and bus stops, as well as in-vehicle and at-station voice announcement systems.

BMTC suspends three conductors for misusing UPI ticketing system

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has suspended three of its conductors from duty for misusing the UPI scanner-linked ticketing system.

According to officials, they were suspended after serious irregularities in the use of UPI-based ticketing systems were detected during routine inspections conducted in December 2025. "The action follows the discovery that the staff members had allegedly collected fares using their personal UPI scanners instead of the corporation-issued devices, in violation of established financial and ticketing protocols," a senior official said.

Officials said that the diverted amounts ranged from over ₹3,000 to more than ₹54,000.

According to BMTC officials, inspection teams found that the conductors continued to issue tickets while diverting fare payments to personal digital payment accounts.

Without tickets

"The three staff members might have collected fare amounts via personal UPI accounts without issuing tickets, taking advantage of instances where passengers were unaware that ticket issuance is mandatory after payment," official added.

The BMTC staff members had allegedly collected fares using their personal UPI scanners instead of the corporation-issued devices, in violation of established financial and ticketing protocols. FILE PHOTO

A detailed enquiry was subsequently conducted, during which the allegations were found to be substantiated.

Based on the findings, the BMTC initiated disciplinary proceedings and placed the three staff members under suspension pending further investigation. The suspended personnel include two conductors and one driver-cum-conductor attached to depots in the North East and South zones of the city.

In response to the incident, the corporation has issued strict instructions to all depot managers, directing them to closely monitor the use of officially issued UPI scanners and ensure that staff adhere strictly to prescribed ticketing and revenue collection procedures. Senior officials have been asked to intensify inspections.

New system

The BMTC has also announced that it is in the process of rolling out a Dynamic QR-based UPI payment system. "The new system is expected to enhance transparency, improve security, and create a more foolproof mechanism for fare collection, thereby strengthening revenue protection measures," official said.

Meanwhile, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has advised the BMTC officials to adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards such misconduct.

"I have instructed BMTC officials to take strict and deterrent action in all such cases in future, underscoring the importance of transparency, accountability, and safeguarding public revenue," Mr. Reddy said.

KSTDC to launch Ambaari hop-on hop-off double-decker bus service

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) will start the Ambaari Double Decker Bengaluru Hop-On Hop-Off service, a new tourism initiative aimed at showcasing Bengaluru's heritage and landmarks.

Three double decker buses will be flagged off on Wednesday, at Ravindra Kala Kshetra by Minister for Law, Justice, Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation and Tourism H.K. Patil.

The service is being launched by the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) in association with the Karnataka Department of Tourism.

According to Tourism Department officials, the buses are designed as a convenient sightseeing option for tourists and residents. The double-decker bus will operate on a circular route starting and ending at Ravindra Kala Kshetra. Key stops along the route include Hudson Circle, Visvesvaraya Museum/Government Museum, Queens Road (Chinnaswamy Stadium Road), Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Road near Vidhana Soudha, KR Circle, and Corporation Signal.

The Ambaari double-decker buses are already a familiar sight in Mysuru. FILE PHOTO

"The hop-on hop-off model allows passengers to board and alight at designated stops, offering flexibility to explore landmarks at their own pace. The Ambaari double-decker buses, already a familiar sight in Mysuru, have been customised to provide an enhanced city-viewing experience in Bengaluru," an official said.

According to Tourism Department officials, the buses are designed as a convenient sightseeing option for tourists and residents in city

The 40-seater bus features both lower and upper decks. Tourists will receive audio-guided commentary as the bus reaches designated sightseeing locations along the route. According to KSTDC officials, the Ambaari bus has been wrapped with visuals reflecting the State's art forms, cultural diversity, wildlife and major tourist destinations.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21	
RISE	06:46 SET 18:15
RISE	08:32 SET 20:31
THURSDAY, JAN. 22	
RISE	06:46 SET 18:16
RISE	09:12 SET 21:22
FRIDAY, JAN. 23	
RISE	06:46 SET 18:16
RISE	09:50 SET 22:13

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	31	15
Bengaluru	29	15

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Government of Tamil Nadu
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Chennai Construction and Maintenance Circle
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.64/2025-2026/HDO/Dated :20 .01.2026

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu **Percentage tender through online only** are invited upto 07/02/2026 at **11.00 AM** by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Chennai Circle for the works under CRIDP 2025-26 pertaining to Chennai City Roads Division–I (H) C&M, CRIDP 2026-27 (Advance Sanction) pertaining to Thiruvallur (H) C&M Division and Deposit Work from Temple Fund pertaining to Thiruvallur (H) C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details will be available from **22/01/2026** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer(H)
C&M, Chennai Circle.

DIPR/346/TENDER/2026

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008.
Phone:28191890/28190259; Fax: 044 -28190636

Sl. No	Online Tender no with qty./ Document Cost	Sale Period	Pre bid	Submission	Opening
1	E1456/FAB/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, Dt:13.01.2026-Fabrication Work for Vehicle -Women Wellness on wheels (37)- Rs.5,725/-	21.01.2026 to 05.02.2026	28.01.2026 11.00 AM	06.02.2026 11.00 AM	06.02.2026 12.00 Noon
2	E1457/MAMMO/RC/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2025, Dt:13.01.2026 – 2D Digital Mammography Machine (37)– Rs.5,725/-	21.01.2026 to 05.02.2026	28.01.2026 11.30 AM	06.02.2026 11.00 AM	06.02.2026 12.00 Noon
3	E1458/SCOPE/DME/TNMSC/ENGG/2025 Dt:13.01.2026 – Integrated Difficult Airway Scope System (1)– Rs.2,290/-	22.01.2026 to 09.02.2026	29.01.2026 11.00 AM	10.02.2026 11.00 AM	10.02.2026 12.00 Noon
4	E1459/WARMER/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2025 Dt:13.01.2026 – Radiant Warmer- Low end (686)– Rs.5,725/-	22.01.2026 to 09.02.2026	29.01.2026 11.30 AM	10.02.2026 11.00 AM	10.02.2026 12.00 Noon
5	E1460/EYE/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, Dt:13.01.2026 – Streak Retinoscope (28)– Rs.2,290/-	22.01.2026 to 09.02.2026	29.01.2026 12.00 Noon	10.02.2026 11.00 AM	10.02.2026 12.00 Noon
6	E1461/CEN/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, Dt:13.01.2026 – Refrigerated Centrifuge (13)– Rs.5,725/-	23.01.2026 to 10.02.2026	30.01.2026 11.30 AM	11.02.2026 11.00 AM	11.02.2026 12.00 Noon
7	E1462/LCMS/DME SMC/ TNMSC/ ENGG/ 2025, Dt:13.01.2026 – Nano Liquid Chromatography couple to Mass spectrometry HRMS (1)– Rs.5,725/-	23.01.2026 to 10.02.2026	30.01.2026 12.00 Noon	11.02.2026 11.00 AM	11.02.2026 12.00 Noon

For details visit www.tntenders.gov.in and TNMSC website www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in
DIPR/331/TENDER/2026 **GENERAL MANAGER (EQUIPMENT)**

Office of Managing Director, Bureau for Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu (FaMeTN)
MSME Department, Government of Tamil Nadu
1st Floor, SIDCO Corporate Office Building, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032

S. No.	Tendering Authority & Bid Submission Portal, Date of Issue and Bid Due Date (BOD) and time	Subject of Request for Proposal (RFP)
1	**General Manager, FaMeTN www.tntender.gov.in/ Bid Due Date & Time: 04-02-2026 (5.00 PM)**	Appointment of Consultants to prepare Industry Transformation Road maps for the following sectors in Tamil Nadu: i) Electrical and Electronics (with special focus on semiconductor) ii) Leather and Non-Leather Footwear iii) Rubber and Plastics (including Alternatives) iv) Biotechnology (with focus on establishing life science innovation cluster) v) Heavy Engineering and Machinery (adopting emerging technologies and sustainable initiatives) vi) Logistics & Infrastructure driven Industrial growth vii) Medical Devices(with focus on development of medical device manufacturing hub)

All subsequent communications will be available at the site mentioned above/FaMeTN (www.fametn.com) website. The RfP notifications will also be available at **www tntenders.gov.in/.** RfPs can be downloaded till BOD and will be opened on the portal **www.tntenders.gov.in/** on the respective BOD. The processes are meant to be end-to-end electronic and all submissions except presentations for the RFPs will be entirely online to the maximum extent possible. The responses could be used for empanelling firms and experts for similar projects in FaMeTN, at the sole discretion of the Tender Accepting Authority.

Sd/-
Managing Director
FaMeTN

DIPR/329/Tender/2026

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in
ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LTD. Mining Happiness

Advt. No. 93/OMC **RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVES IN OMC LTD.** **Date: 20.01.2026**

Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC), a Gold category and one of the largest State PSUs in Mining Sector in the Country, undertakes exploration, mining and trading of iron, chrome, limestone & bauxite ores. Inspired by the vision to emerge as the market leader and to play a catalytic role in the growth of industrialization, OMC caters to the requirements of mineral based industries. The Corporation has achieved an annual turnover of Rs.23,630 crores in the FY 2024 -25.

The Corporation invites application from dynamic & competent professionals who are ready to accept challenge to work in a diversified company in a sustainable manner. The Corporation intends to fill up the following regular posts, for which applications are invited from interested candidates **THROUGH ONLINE APPLICATION MODE**:

VACANCY

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Scale of Pay (in Rs.) (Level)	Initial Basic Pay (in Rs.) (Cell)	Total Posts	Age as on 11.02.2026
1.	General Manager (Geology), E-7 Grade	1,27,100/- to 2,16,300/- (Level-16)	1,38,800/- (Cell-4)	01 (UR)	Not above 55 years
2.	Addl. General Manager (Sales & Marketing), E-6 grade	1,23,100/- to 2,15, 900/- (Level-15)	1,23,100/- (Cell-1)	01 (UR)	Not above 50 years
3.	Dy. General Manager (Sales & Marketing), E-5 grade	78,800/- to 2,09, 200/- (Level-14)	1,05,900/- (Cell-11)	02 (UR)	Not above 44 years
4.	Dy. General Manager (Legal), E-5 grade	78,800/- to 2,09, 200/- (Level-14)	1,05,900/- (Cell-11)	01 (UR)	Not above 50 years
5.	Senior Manager (Business Excellence), E-4 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/- (Level-13)	91,100/- (Cell-11)	01 (UR)	Not above 40 years

> Interested candidates are advised to go through the detailed term & conditions of this advertisement available in OMC website (**https://omcltd.in/en/people/career/employment-opportunities**).
> Candidates can apply in the link (**https://career.odishamining.in/login.**) which shall be made go-live from **02.00 P.M of 21.01.2026 till 11.59 P.M of 11.02.2026**. No other mode of application shall be entertained.
> OMC Management reserves the right to cancel, amend or alter the above advertisement without assigning any reason thereof.
> Candidates requested to visit Corporation website **https://omcltd.in/en/people/career/employment-opportunities** at regular intervals for any notification, news, updates etc. relating to this recruitment.

Important Dates	
Starting Date for Online Registration of Application	21.01.2026 at 02:00 P.M.
Last Date of submission of Online Application	11.02.2026 at 11:59 P.M.

CAD-3072 : **Sd/- Executive Director (P&A)**

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‘DKS waiting patiently, power does not come easily to anyone’

Senior leader Rahul Gandhi had assured that an appropriate decision would be taken at the right time, says D.K. Suresh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the Congress high command yet to announce any timeline for a leadership change in Karnataka, former MP D.K. Suresh said that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is “patiently awaiting” the party’s decision, noting that “power does not come easily to anyone”.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Suresh described his brother as “a disciplined soldier of the party” who continues to act in the interests of both the organisation and its legislators. He added that senior leader Rahul Gandhi had assured them that an appropriate decision would be taken at the right time.

Former MP D.K. Suresh described his brother and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar as ‘a disciplined soldier of the party’ who continues to act in the interests of both the organisation and its legislators. FILE PHOTO

What Rahul said

“The party has already asked him to remain patient. During the meeting in Mysuru, Rahul Gandhi also said that the right decision would be taken at the right time,” Mr. Suresh said.

He claimed that while some leaders remain loyal to individuals or positions of power, Mr. Shivakumar has consistently stood by the party, whether in power or in opposition. “If it is written in my brother’s fate, he will become the Chief Minister. The post is not easy to attain, and it requires patience,” he remarked.

Mr. Suresh said Mr. Gandhi, as a national leader, has to consider all dimensions.

“He has to think about politics across the country. My view will naturally be in the interest of Mr. Shivakumar,” he said.

When asked how long Mr. Shivakumar’s supporters should wait, Mr. Suresh referred to the upcoming legislature session scheduled from January 22 to 31. “After that, we will have to see what the high command decides,” he said.

Mr. Suresh further said that no one gives up their chair easily. “Even gram panchayat officials do not vacate their chairs easily,” the former MP said.

Unity is crucial

Mr. Suresh said the Deputy Chief Minister was waiting patiently in the interest of the party and its 140 MLAs. He stressed that unity would be crucial ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections and that the Congress must contest the polls as a cohesive force.

The leadership debate in Karnataka has gained momentum amid speculation of a possible change in the Chief Minister’s post after the Congress government completed the halfway mark of its five-year term on November 20, 2025. The speculation is linked to a reported power-sharing understanding between Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar at the time of the government’s formation in 2023.

‘Ballot papers not necessary’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid Congress’s campaign on distrust of electronic voting machines (EVM), former Bangalore Rural MP D.K. Suresh obliquely questioned the decision to use ballot papers instead of EVMs for the upcoming Bengaluru civic polls.

“I don’t think it is necessary,” he said about returning to ballot papers. “The State Election Commission will conduct the polls and I don’t think it can be manipulated. The party has to decide.”

State govt. can go ahead with recruitments without applying increase in quota limit: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday made it clear that it has not prevented the State government from making recruitment to various vacant posts as per the earlier reservation limit, which existed before enhancing the reservation for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha made these observations orally during the hearing on the two PIL petitions, filed by Mahendra Kumar Mitra, a social worker from Raichur, and Mahesh, from Bengaluru.

The petitioner had questioned the constitutional validity of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) (Reservation of Seats in Education Institutions and Appointments of Posts and Services under the State) Act, 2022, which has increased reservation for the SCs and the STs from 15% to 17% and from 3% to 7%, respectively.

54,000 vacant posts

The Bench made these remarks when State Advocate-General K. Shahshi Kiran Shetty told the Bench that 54,000 posts are vacant in the State and sought permission to start the recruitment process to fill up these posts as per the increased reservation percentage for SCs and STs subject to the final outcome of the petitions.

However, the advocates appearing for the petitioners opposed the proposal made by the A-G while pointing out that there is no bar for the government to make appointments to the vacant posts as per earlier reservation limit for SCs and STs.

SC hearing

Meanwhile, it was pointed out to the Bench that the Supreme Court is likely to hear by the end of January a petition filed by the Madhya Pradesh government seeking transfer of the petitions, which have questioned a similar law that had increased reservation for SCs and STs in Madhya Pradesh.

However, it was pointed out that the Karnataka government has not filed any petition for transferring the petitions to the Supreme Court.

Following this, the Bench adjourned further hearing till February 12.

Interim orders

The Bench in its November 19 interim order had restrained the State government from implementing the increase in reservation in terms of the 2022 Act till the next date of hearing, and on November 27 had directed that no further notifications for recruitment or appointment on the basis of increased reservation would be issued till the disposal of the present petitions.

The recruitment pursuant to the process that is already begun, prior to November 19, could be continued, the Bench said, while making it clear that appointment made in such cases should be subject to the final outcome of the petitions.

Students and faculty should converse in English on campuses: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Janaka Pushpanathan, Director, British Council, South India; M.C. Sudhakar, Higher Education Minister; Chandru Iyer, Deputy High Commissioner to Karnataka and Kerala, and Manjushree N., Commissioner, Department of Collegiate and Technical Education, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar insisted that students and faculty members of higher educational institutions converse in English while on college and university campuses.

“English is the medium of instruction in higher education, but not many people speak English on college and university campuses,” he observed. He advised teaching faculty to converse in English during class hours. “If we want to bring about change in the institutions, then teachers should speak in English first. Learning English will increase self-confidence among the students,” he added.

He was speaking after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the British Council and Microsoft to expand the English Skills for Youth programme on Tuesday.

Sharing his experience from his time as a faculty member at a dental college, Dr. Sudhakar said, “When I was a faculty member in a private dental college, we used to speak primarily in English on campus, and the confidence level was very high. However, after entering public life, I began speaking only in Kannada or other regional languages. As a result, it became difficult to speak spontaneously in English at various public fora, and my fluency declined”.

Reaffirming his respect for Kannada, he said the more you try to speak a language, the better you can learn it. You can work on improving your vocabulary, and acquiring proficiency in English is necessary. Highlighting how key English language skills are in the job market, he said even if a student is a rank holder, if he or she is not able to converse in good English, it could hinder their job prospects. He said English was a key factor in the hospitality and Information Technology (IT) sectors, apart from several others.

The English Skills for Youth programme is already being run in 16 government engineering colleges, in 54 degree and polytechnic colleges, covering 9,500 students. The MoU signed on Tuesday will expand this to other government colleges as well. This scheme mainly aims to enhance employability skills among students.

Minister Eshwar Khandre elected Veerashaiva Mahasabha president

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Eshwar Khandre

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre was unanimously elected president of the All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha on Tuesday. He was elected president following the demise of senior Congress leader and Mahasabha president Shamanur Shivashankarappa recently. Mr. Khandre served as general secretary of Mahasabha for 13 years and had held the in-charge post of senior vice-president since the last one year. Thanking the committee for elevating him unanimously, Mr. Khandre said, “Veerashaiavas and Lingayats are not different. It is important to unite all sub-castes. Approximately 40% to 50% of the people in the community are backward, and about 30% are the most backward. I will strive to provide justice to all”.

Mr. Khandre’s father, Bheemanna Khandre, who passed away recently, was associated with the Mahasabha for several decades.

Surprise check at central prison; eight mobile phones seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of the ongoing prison reforms special drive, prison officials on Saturday conducted a surprise inspection at the Parappana Agrahara central prison and recovered eight mobile phones, seven SIM cards, and other prohibited items.

Based on the latest seizure, a case has been registered under Section 42 of the Karnataka Prisons and several sections of Correctional Services Act, 2022, along with other relevant provisions.

Officials said 142 mobile phones have been recovered so far under the special drive since November last year.

Money laundering case: High Cout refuses to grant bail to former MUDA Commissioner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday declined to grant bail to G.T. Dinesh Kumar, 46, former Commissioner of Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) in the case registered against him under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2000 in connection with the MUDA scam.

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav passed the order while rejecting the petition filed by Kumar, who was arrested by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on September 16, 2025. He is in judicial custody at present.

However, the High Court has given him liberty to approach it again for bail after three months.

Meanwhile, the court found no illegalities in the procedure followed during his arrest and agreed with the contention of the ED investigation against him is continuing even though first investigation report has been filed against him before the jurisdictional court.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND/E-Service3/Corri/2025-26 Date:20.01.2026

CORRIGENDUM-1

Ref: This Office Tender Notification No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-E- Service3/501/2025-26. Date:14.01.2026

In furtherance to this office tender notification cited under reference above, the work of Providing services for Drone Survey with Topographical Mapping and Cadastral overlay for KIADB land in Vijayapur District in Tidagundi Village. (Total Extent: 1212.00 Acres) was published in daily newspapers on dt:17.01.2026, mentioning the Last date for submission of bids as: 31.02.2026., to be read as dated:31.01.2026.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2,
KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5133/CCL/2025-26

ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ,ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಸನ್ನತಿ ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ಖಾನಾಪೂರ

ಸಂ: ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ: ಸ.ಏ.ನೀ.ವಿಭಾಗ: ಯೋಶಾ–I/ /2025–26/ 1050&1051 ದಿ:16.01.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಸಂಕ್ಷೀಪ್ತಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರರ, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಸನ್ನತಿ ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಖಾನಾಪೂರ, ರವರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಪರ್ಸಂಟೇಜ್ ಆಧಾರಧ ಮೇಲೆ 2 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ EMD ಹಾಗೂ ದಾಖಾಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ 2 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು (Indent No.2610 & 2672) **2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ:** ರೂ 77.64 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ರೂ. 84.74ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗೆ **3) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕ್ಲಾಸ್:** 1)ಸಿ,ಇ.ಐ.ಜಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ Iನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಇಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಕಲ್‌ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಲೇಬರ್ ಸರ್ಟಿಫಿಕೇಟ್ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ & ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲೂ.ಡಿ ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ IIIನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ. 2)I ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ. **4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ದರ:** ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದಂತೆ **5)**ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ **ಮೊತ್ತ:** ರೂ. 155000.00 ಗಳಿಂದ 170000.00 ರೂಗಳ ವರೆಗೆ 6) **ಪೂರ್ಣ ತುಂಬಿದ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 21.01.2026 ರಿಂದ30.01.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ5.00ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ 7) **ಪೂರ್ಣ ತುಂಬಿದ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 30.01.2026 ರಸಂಜೆ5.00ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:** 02.02.2026ರ ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **09) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ:** ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರಕಛೇರಿ,ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಸನ್ನತಿ ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಖಾನಾಪೂರ ಕ್ಯಾಂಪ್

ಮೇಲೆ ನೀಡಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿಮತ್ತು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಸನ್ನತಿಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಖಾನಾಪೂರಕ್ಯಾಂಪ್

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/484/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2025–26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

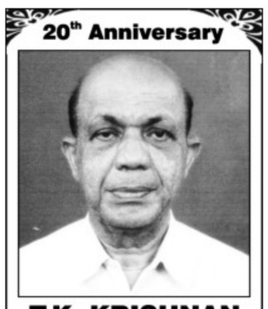
DOB 12.09.1954 DOD 21.01.2016

R.SAI SANKAR

Fondly remembered by
Simma, Siva & staff of
Southern Gasket Products,
Cell : 9884078578

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

20th Anniversary



T.K. KRISHNAN
Fondly remembered by
Family & Friends

IN MEMORIAM

In Fond Memory of
Mr. V.S.K. DURAISWAMY NADAR, M.A.,

FORTY FIRST ANNIVERSARY
21.01.2026
Ever Loving
D. ANANDA RAJAN
Family Members
D. MANOHARA RAJAN
Family Members
D. GUNASEELA RAJAN
Family Members

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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Congress calls Governor-CM controversy in Kerala a 'scripted act'

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary and MP K.C. Venugopal on Tuesday alleged that the controversy over Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar omitting portions of the policy address, later read out by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was an electoral theatrics staged jointly by the Governor and the Chief Minister.

Speaking to the media in Kannur, Mr. Venugopal said the episode appeared to be a scripted act in which space was deliberately created for the Governor to delete portions, while simultaneously giving the Chief Minister an opportunity to respond theatrically.

'CM silent in the past'

He asked why such omissions were never highlighted earlier if the Governor had the practice of striking out portions of the address. Recalling the tenure of former Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, he said Mr. Vijayan and his colleagues had remained silent even when substantial deletions were made in policy addresses in the past.

On the Sabarimala gold theft case, Mr. Venugopal the government had no moral right to continue in power. Only a court-monitored probe would bring to light the real accused, he said.

ED conducts searches in 3 States in Sabarimala gold theft case

Central agency searches 21 sites to unearth money trail after court-appointed SIT points to a 'deep-rooted criminal conspiracy' among Devaswom Board officials, intermediaries and jewellers to misappropriate temple gold; 13 held so far

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), pursuing a money laundering trail in the Sabarimala gold theft case, searched 21 premises across Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on Tuesday.

The ED investigation under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 stems from multiple FIRs registered by a Kerala High Court-appointed special investigation team (SIT) that point to a deep-rooted criminal conspiracy involving officials of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) that manages the Ayyappa temple, private individuals, intermediaries, and jewellers, to misappropriate gold-plated moulds over stone carvings, sculptures, and doorway panels of the sanctum sanctorum

Officials and security personnel outside the TDB headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram during the ED search. A. JAYAMOHAN

The premises included the headquarters of the TDB in Thiruvananthapuram, as well as the residence of former TDB president and CPI(M) leader A. Padmakumar in Pathanamthitta.

ED officials, escorted by armed paramilitary personnel, also descended on the house of prime accused Unnikrishnan Potti; former TDB Commissioner and later TDB president N. Vasu, both in Thiruvananthapuram; and the residence of former TDB executive officer Murari Babu in Kottayam.

The officials said the ED simultaneously searched the residence and office of Pankaj Bhandari, owner of Smart Creations, a metal works unit, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and private premises, including jeweller Govardhan's shop, at Ballari in Karnataka. The ED's zonal office in Kochi spearheaded the operation.

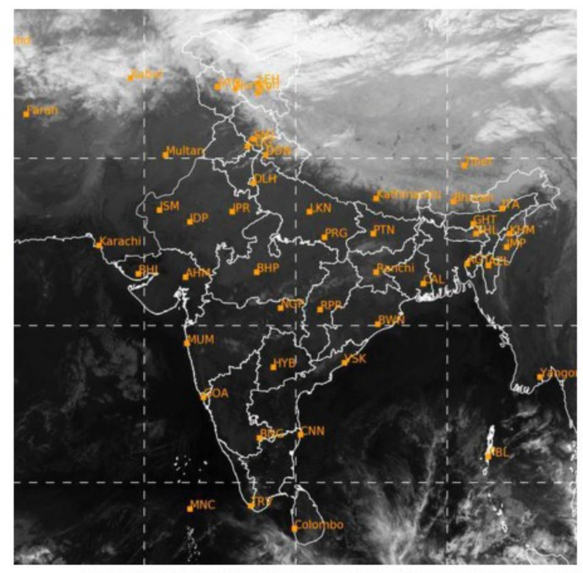
The SIT has so far arraigned 13 persons, including the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple's senior chief priest (Tantri) Kandararu Rajeevaru, as accused in the cases.

SIT conducts inspection at Ayyappa temple

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Kerala High Court-appointed special investigation team (SIT) probing the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple gold theft case carried out a forensic probe at the temple on Tuesday.
SIT chief investigating officer S. Sasidharan led the team to the Sannidhanam.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Dense fog likely at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. Ground frost likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.0	13.5	Kozhikode	—	33.4	23.5
Ahmedabad	—	29.1	13.3	Kurnool	—	33.0	17.1
Aizawl	—	27.4	13.2	Lucknow	—	25.4	10.8
Allahabad	—	25.4	12.4	Madurai	—	32.5	19.2
Bengaluru	—	29.4	14.8	Mangaluru	—	30.7	20.0
Bhopal	—	24.4	9.8	Mumbai	—	29.1	16.0
Bhubaneswar	—	31.6	12.7	Mysuru	—	29.8	15.0
Chandigarh	—	25.1	6.0	New Delhi	—	25.7	7.2
Chennai	—	30.4	19.3	Patna	—	24.6	13.6
Coimbatore	—	31.2	18.8	Port Blair	0.1	29.6	23.2
Dehradun	—	25.2	7.9	Puducherry	—	29.0	19.4
Gangtok	—	14.2	8.5	Pune	—	31.0	16.2
Goa	—	30.3	18.5	Raipur	—	31.2	14.5
Guwahati	—	26.8	14.8	Ranchi	—	26.6	8.0
Hubballi	—	31.0	15.0	Shillong	—	15.7	6.4
Hyderabad	—	29.2	17.5	Shimla	—	18.6	6.3
Imphal	—	24.1	5.6	Srinagar	—	12.5	-3.4
Jaipur	—	25.2	12.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.1	22.9
Kochi	—	30.4	23.8	Tiruchi	—	29.5	19.0
Kohima	—	18.0	6.8	Vijayawada	—	29.8	18.6
Kolkata	—	28.4	13.0	Visakhapatnam	—	29.2	18.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.37	..55	23	... 173	...140	
Bengaluru	...6	..21	10	... 178	...142	
Chennai	...7	4	54	... 180	...147	
Delhi	.12	154	68	... 417	...390	
Hyderabad	...7	..12	60	 72	97	
Kolkata	.11	205	70	... 357	...284	
Lucknow	...8	..46	54	... 202	...278	
Mumbai	...4	..52	16	... 125	...127	
Pune	..—	..74	..2	... 197	...161	
Visakhapatnam	.35	122	30	... 280	...236	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 394 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 32

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Telangana Police now allow victims to register FIRs at home for seven crime categories

Lavpreet Kaur
HYDERABAD

The Crime Investigation Department (CID) of the Telangana Police now allows First Information Reports (FIRs) to be registered at the residence or place of choice of victims, eliminating the need for a visit to police stations in sensitive cases.

The initiative is applicable for victims of seven crime categories: offences against women and children under Sections 63 to 99 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), encompassing sexual offences, criminal force and assault against women, offences relating to marriage, causing miscarriage and crimes against children; crimes affecting the human body under Sections 100 to 146, such as offences affecting life, cases of hurt, wrongful restraint and confinement, criminal force and assault, as well as kidnapping, abduction, slavery and forced labour; property offences including theft, extortion, snatching, house burglaries by the day or night, robbery and dacoity, covered under Sections 303 to 313 and 331 and cases under special laws such as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and the Telangana Prohibition of Ragging Act.

Under the new procedure, upon receiving telephonic or oral information about a cognisable offence in the specified categories, the jurisdictional police, or any officer in the case of a Zero FIR, will immediately proceed to the victim's residence, place of offence, hospital or any other location chosen by the complainant.

The complaint will be recorded on-site and forwarded to the police station concerned for registration of the FIR, a copy of which will be provided to the victim at their location.

Standard Operating Procedures were circulated to Superintendents of Police across all districts,.

'Teppotsavam' from Jan. 26

TIRUPATI The annual 'Teppotsavam' (float festival) of Govindaraja Swamy temple will be held from January 26 to February 1. Various deities will be taken out on a procession on the flotilla in Sri Govindaraja Swamy Pushkarini from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of The Commissioner, 16th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru -560003
No.: Com(BWCC)/524/2025-26 Date: 20.01.2026

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru West City Corporation invites applications for the post of **"Head Of the Legal Cell"** from persons who have thorough knowledge and skills in Service Matters, Labour laws, Land laws etc. and also from Retired District and Session Judges who aged below 55 years.

- Tenure of the post one year Initially Continuation up to 3 years based on performance.
- Consolidated Salary as per K.C.S. Rules.
- Leave and medical Facilities as per the BWCC Employees.
- Mode of selection through an interview.

Applications with complete Bio-Data along with related document in an envelope superscripted as Applications for the post of **'Head of Legal Cell'** should be submitted to **'The Commissioner, Bengaluru West City Corporation, 16th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003'** on or before **30.01.2026** Applications can be submitted directly or through post.

Sd/-,
Commissioner
Bengaluru West City Corporation

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU (CCH-73) O.S No. 26271/2023

BETWEEN: 1. SRI.KARTHIK S RAJU, S/o Sunder Raju, Aged: 24 years. 2. SRI KAUSHIK S RAJU S/o Sunder Raju, Aged: 22 years, Both residing at 294, 16th Cross, Sadashiva Nagar, Bangalore-560086 ...PLAINTIFFS
AND : H.N PRABHAKAR & ORS .....DEFENDANTS

PUBLIC NOTICE UNDER ORDER V RULE 20

DEFENDANT NO.2(a): SRI.SANDESH S/o Late.H.N.Ramesh, Aged major Hebbal, Bangalore560024, R/a No.15, 4th C Main Road

DEFENDANT NO.2(b). SMT. JASWANTHI D/o Late H.N.Ramesh, Aged Major R/a No.15, 4th C Main Road Hebbal, Bangalore- 560024.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiffs have filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1& 2 of Civil Procedure Code, 1908 praying grant of permanent injunction restraining the Defendants jointly and severally from alienating and creating third party encumbrance on the schedule property, of permanent injunction restraining the defendants jointly and severally from changing the nature of the schedule property and to pass a decree to register the suit schedule property in favour of plaintiffs the details of which is mentioned in the schedule hereunder and to pass any other order as the Hon'ble Court deems fit. You are hereby called upon to appear before the LXXII Addl. City Civil and Sessions Court (CCH-73), Mayo Hall, Bangalore either in of person or by pleader, duly instructed, **09th day of February, 2026 at 11:00 AM** and to show cause against the Plaintiffs, failing which it will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE OF H.N.PRABHAKAR:- All that piece and parcel of 0.74 gunta of land in land bearing Sy.No.66/7 situated at Hebbal Village, Kasaba-2 Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: **East:**Property of H.N.Ramesh in Sy.No.66/2, **West:** Private Property, **North:** Property of Smt.H.N.Nagamani in Sy.No.66/2, **South :** Rajakaluve

SCHEDULE OF H.N.RAMESH :- All that piece and parcel of 0.7% gunta of land in land bearing Sy.No.66/2 situated at Hebbal Village, Kasaba-2 Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: **East:** Private Property, **West:** Property of H.N.Prabhakar Sy.No.66/2, **North:** Property of H.N.HarishSy.No.66/2, **South:** Rajakaluve.

SCHEDULE OF H.N.HAREESH:- All that piece and parcel of 0.74 gunta of land in land bearing Sy.No.66/2 situated at Hebbal Village, Kasaba-2 Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on:**East:** Private Property, **West:** Property of Smt. Nagamani and Smt. Padmavathi of Sy.No.66/2,**North:** Munivenkatappa's Property, **South:** Property of H.N.Ramesh of Sy.No.66/2

SCHEDULE OF Smt. NAGAMANI : All that piece and parcel of 0.2 1 1/2 gunta of land in land bearingSy.No.66/2 situated at Hebbal Village, Kasaba-2 Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: **East:**Property of H.N.Harish in Sy.No.66/2, **West:** Private Property, **North:** Property of Smt.Padmavathamma in Sy.No.66/2, **South:** Property of H.N.Prabhakar in Sy.No.66/2.

SCHEDULE OF Smt.PADMAVATHAMMA:- All that piece and parcel of 0.5 - guntas of land in land bearing Sy.No.66/2 situated at Hebbal Village, Kasaba-2 Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: **East:** Property of H.N.Harish in Sy.No.66/2, **West:** Private Property, **North:** Munivenkatappa's Property.**South:** Property of Smt. Nagamani in Sy.No.66/2.

Address for service
Kreioz Legal
No.207 & 208 Regency Enclave, Magrath Road

By the Order of the Court,Deputy Registrar City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE
The TGTRANSCO invites online Bids on e-procurement platform for supply of the following Material.

Sl.No.	Tender Specification No.	Description of Equipment
1	TGPMM11- 01/2026	33 kV Lightning Arrestors.
2	TGPMM11- 03/2026	400 kV Lightning Arrestors.
3	TGPMM11- 04/2026	Hot Line T & P.

Bidders can have further details and download the tender schedule from e-procurement platform@ www.tender.telangana.gov.in (Telangana state). Contact Nos:O/o. The Chief Engineer/P&MM, TGTransco, Hyderabad. Phone: 040-23396000, Extn:3670/3583/3276, www.tgtransco.com

Sd/-
Chief Engineer/P&MM
DIPR R.O.No.1087-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt:20.01.2026

PUBILC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **Mrs. Freya Joseph** Gonsalves along with her husband **Mr. Joseph Gonsalves** residing at: #301, Villa Maria, 6th Cross Hutchins Road, 24, Wheeler Road Extn., Thomas Town, Bangalore North, St. Thomas Town, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560084. (hereinafter the Lease Holder) are members of the National Co-operative Housing Society Ltd. (hereinafter NCHSL) holding 5 (five) distinctive shares of face value Rs. 50/- each bearing distinctive nos. 027 & 245 to 248 (both inclusive) are Lessees of plot no. 063 in NCHSL, more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder. The Lease Holders have represented that they have a clear and marketable title to the above Lease Premises and the associated shares, and that both are free from all encumbrances and claims.

Any person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Lease Premises and/or the said Shares and/or any part thereof by way of sale, mortgage, exchange, charge, lease, lien, inheritance, gift, trust, maintenance, possession, easement or otherwise are hereby required to make known the same to the undersigned at the contact mentioned below within 10 (ten) days from the date of this notice, failing which no objections/claims shall be entertained and the claims if any will deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE: All that piece and parcel of the open sanctioned layout Plot bearing No. 063 admeasuring 774 sqmtrs. in NCHSL bearing Survey nos. 118 to 124 at village Aundh, taluka Haveli, district Pune which is bounded is as under -

On towards East - Sanctioned Plot No. 64
On towards South - Sanctioned Plot No. 78
On Towards West - Sanctioned Plot No. 62
On Towards North - Road
Pune, Date: 13/01/2026.

Abhijit R. Varade, Advocate,
Dnynada Apartment, 517, Sadashiv Peth, Pune-411030.
Cell: 9822783607/9766693241email: abhijitvarade@rediffmail.com

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹರಿಹರ–577601
ಫೋ:08192–244266 ka.harihar.cmc@gmail.com
ನಂ.ನಸಹ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ–15/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.01.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದೇಶ–1999–2000ರ Act 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2. ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3 & ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 ರ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ದರಗಳನ್ನು KPP ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮಗೆ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹರಿಹರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. 1) ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.02.2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ 2) ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಮುಖಾಂತರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.02.2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

1) DMA/2025-26/OW/W_INDENT 53815 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:–145.00 ಲಕ್ಷ.
2) DMA/2025-26/RD/W_INDENT 53814 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:–180.00 ಲಕ್ಷ.
3) DMA/2025-26/RD/W_INDENT 53811 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:–40.00 ಲಕ್ಷ.
4) DMA/2025-26/RD/W_INDENT 53810 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:–88.00 ಲಕ್ಷ.
5) DMA/2025-26/RD/W_INDENT 53812 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:–65.00 ಲಕ್ಷ.
6) DMA/2025-26/OW/W_INDENT 53816 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:–75.00 ಲಕ್ಷ.
7) DMA/2025-26/RD/W_INDENT 53808 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:–25.00 ಲಕ್ಷ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹರಿಹರ.
ಸಹಿ/–ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹರಿಹರ.
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/664/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
KMF Complex, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bengaluru-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105 E-mail: kmfengg@gmail.com
IFT No: KMF/ENGG/UPS Batteries to NHMPP/02129/2025-26/ Date: 20-01-2026

SHORT TERM RE TENDER NOTIFICATION(Call-2)
[Two cover System] [Through KPP Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd, Bangalore invites short term tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers through KPP-Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed Suppliers/ Manufacturer who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website **https://www.kppp.karantaka.gov.in** and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	Supply, installation & commissioning of 12V, 200Ah rechargeable 700 Nos batteries for online UPS on buy back basis & related work at NHMPP, Ramanagar.	1 Job	2.00 lakhs	2 months

1. Tender may be downloaded from dated: **21-01-2026 to 29-01-2026 upto 4:00 PM. 2.** Pre Bid Tender date: **23-01-2026 at 11.00AM. 3.** Last date for Tender submission on date: **29-01-2026 up to 4:00 PM. 4 .** Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: **30-01-2026 at 4:30 PM.**
Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, it will be uploaded on KPPP portal only.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
Phone No. : 08338/ 273859 E-Mail: eepwdckd@gmail.com
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2025-26/6088 DATE: 17/01/2026

Time Extension Short term and e-Tender Notification-1

This Office E-tender notification No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2025-26/5923 Dated 12/01/2026 was called & Now the First time extension is made for the works at Sl No. 1, 4 & 5 is as below.

Calendar of events for the works at Sl No. 1 & 2:1)Pre Bid Meeting Date: 31-01-2026 AT 11.00 PM, 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 02-02-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 03-02-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System):05-02-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System):"after approval of Technical bids", 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

Calendar of events for the work at Sl No. 3: 1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 06-02-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 07-02-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 09-02-2026 at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 5)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

All other conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1666/KSMCA/2025-26

भारतीय खाद्य निगम आँवलिक कार्यालय (दक्षिण) सं.3, हैडोस रोड, चेन्नई-600006
FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA ZONAL OFFICE (SOUTH) NO.3,HADDOWS ROAD, CHENNAI-600006

भारतीय खाद्य निगम, दक्षिण क्षेत्र, **वर्ष 2026-27** हेतु **15-18** और **18-24 वर्ष** आयु वर्ग के मेधावी खिलाड़ियों से निम्नलिखित खेलों में वृत्ति के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है:
लड़के: (I) फुटबॉल (II)हॉकी (III) क्रिकेट
लड़के और लड़कियां: (I) टेबल टेनिस (II)बैडमिंटन (III) एथलेटिक्स (IV) वेटलिफ्टिंग (V) मुक्केबाजी (VI) तैराकी (VII) तीरंदाजी (VIII) कबड्डी (IX) पावरलिफ्टिंग (X) वॉलीबॉल ।
अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट देखें:**https://fci.gov.in/zone/southzone/news/VTJGc2RHVmtYMTkvQy9YWkJyUFI1VDNIL1dhdVQxTERLWnVwRTliSmNvST0%3D**
आवेदन प्रप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि **11.02.2026** है ।
सचिव जेडएससीपीसी (एम)

Food Corporation Of India, South Zone Invites Applications From Meritorious Sports Persons For Award Of Stipend In The Age Group Of **15-18** And **18-24** Years For The Year **2026-27** In The Following Disciplines:
Boys:(I)Football (ii) Hockey (iii) Cricket
Boys & Girls:(i)Table Tennis (ii)Badminton (iii)Athletics, (iv)Weightlifting (v) Boxing (vi) Swimming (vii) Archery (viii)Kabaddi (ix)Powerlifting (x)Volleyball.
For Details Please Visit Our Website : **https://fci.gov.in/zone/southzone/news/VTJGc2RHVmtYMTkvQy9YWkJyUFI1VDNIL1dhdVQxTERLWnVwRTliSmNvST0%3D**
LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS **11.02.2026**
SECRETARY ZSCPC(S)

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BallariThermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited in two cover system through KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Contractors/ agencies for the following works **(1) No:KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3682/CALL-3 Date:14.01.2026**: "Servicing of 1 No. of Coal Crusher (Ring Granulator) and Modification of Vibrating grizzly including spares at Unit-2". Total tender Amount : **Rs. 84,65,000/-** EMD: **Rs. 1,70,000/-** Last date for submission of bids: **29.01.2026. upto 5.00 p.m.** Further details can be had from office of the Executive Engineer(CHP) Mechanical-1, BTPS, Kudathini-583152, Ballari Dist, Karnataka, Mob: 9448290756.

(2)No:KPCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT3870 Date: 13.01.2026: "BTPS Unit # 1, 2, & 3 : Repair/ Rectification of ESP buffer hopper and SILO bag filter purging system". EMD: **Rs. 10,968/-** Last date for submission of bids: **03.02.2026 upto 5.00 p.m.** Further details can be had from office of the Executive Engineer(I&C) OLA, BTPS, Kudathini-583152, Ballari Dist., Karnataka, Mob: 9448290736.

(3) No:KPCL/2025-26/IND2345 Date: 13.01.2026: Procurement of Fire Fighting Hoses. **(4) No:KPCL/2025-26/IND2344 Date: 13.01.2026:** Procurement of FRP Fume Absorbers & FRP Liquid Gum for RODM & CPU Plants. **(5) No:KPCL/2025-26/IND2176 Date: 13.01.2026:** Procurement of Fastners. **(6) No:KPCL/2025-26/IND1704/CALL-2 Date: 09.01.2026:** Procurement of RELAYS. **(7) No:KPCL/2025-26/IND2243 Date: 13.01.2026:** Procurement of Switches & MCBs. **(8) No:KPCL/ 2025-26/IND2244 Date: 13.01.2026:** Procurement of Induction Motor. **(9) No:KPCL/2025-26/IND2204/Call-2 Date: 13.01.2026:** Procurement of Measuring Instruments. **(10) No:KPCL/2025-26/IND2301/Call-2 Date: 13.01.2026:** Procurement of Valves.
Last date for submission of tenders: *(For Sl. No. 3, 4 & 10):* **29.01.2026 upto 5.00 p.m.** *(For Sl. No. 5):* **28.01.2026.** *(For Sl. No. 6):* **23.01.2026.** *(For Sl. No. 7,8,& 9):* **02.02.2026.** Further details can be had from office of the Executive Engineer (Purchase)BT, BTPS, Kudathini-583152, Ballari Dist, Karnataka, Mob: 9480830377.

Augean mess

The ECI aims to clean the rolls but it is scrubbing off genuine voters

With the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in its claims and corrections phase, it is prudent to ask, yet again, whether the entire process to "clean the electoral rolls" has become a dragnet affecting genuine electors across 12 States. On Monday, the Supreme Court of India issued fresh directions to the ECI to "ease the strain and stress" of millions of electors facing verification notices in West Bengal. Complaints of genuine electors having to run from pillar to post after being sent notices – many are flawed due to errors in the 2002 list used by the ECI for "mapping" or due to glitches in ad hoc software – have forced petitioners to raise questions. As seen during the SIR in Bihar, the Court has again had to issue guidelines to ease the process. In the case of Bihar, the Court's order for Aadhaar to be used as the twelfth identity document provided succour to millions, yet the final electorate numbers showed an egregious anomaly – the deletion of more women electors than men, suggesting that the process was flawed to begin with. This was confirmed in *The Hindu*'s analyses of the deleted electors' lists in Bihar, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal which had shown anomalies that merited further investigation but did not get the ECI's response.

In Tamil Nadu, the deletion process has been so aggressive in many booths that the sum of electors who voted in the 2024 general election and names deleted during the SIR reportedly exceeds the total number of electors originally on the rolls. This suggests that genuine electors who voted in 2024 have also been deleted. Furthermore, the process of deduplicating names has, in many cases, resulted in the deletion of electors' names entirely. While the claims and corrections phase is witnessing lakhs of electors trying to re-enter the rolls, the ECI's insistence on their registering as fresh electors (using Form 6) is illogical and prevents an audit of how many genuine electors were wrongly removed in the first place. Then there is the incomprehensible mismatch in Uttar Pradesh. The State Election Commission, while preparing rolls for rural body polls, found that its count of the rural electorate alone exceeds the ECI's count for the entire State in the draft rolls. By not deciding on the constitutionality of this aggressive self-enumeration early on, the Court is now left managing the fallout of a process that has turned the simple act of maintaining an electoral list into one posing a threat to universal adult franchise. The question is no longer just about "cleaning the rolls" but also on whether genuine voters are being scrubbed off.

Bridging the Gulf

India must tread cautiously as it negotiates defence ties with Gulf nations

The nearly two-hour visit of UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (MbZ) to Delhi on Monday, with only one meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ended with a number of far-reaching outcomes. The UAE is India's third-largest trading partner, its second biggest export destination, seventh biggest foreign investor, and concluded its first bilateral trade agreement with India in 2022. The agreements on Monday focused on the economic partnership – a commitment to double bilateral trade to $200 billion, an LNG deal for $3 billion and UAE investment in Gujarat. However, the major announcement was the intention to conclude a framework agreement for an India-UAE "Strategic Defence partnership", the first of its kind. Details are still to be revealed. However, it is clear that West Asia and South Asia will be watching closely given the complicated security environment in both regions. MbZ's sudden India visit came amidst heightened tensions between the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Both countries were once a part of the same military coalition against the Houthi uprising in 2014. Their power tussle has also intensified over forces in Sudan, and the lack of communication between MbZ and Saudi leader Mohammed Bin Salman (MbS) is now being called the Gulf region's new "cold war". In addition, protests in Iran and the U.S.'s threats to intervene as well as the tenuous Gaza ceasefire and U.S. President Donald Trump's plans for a Board of Peace have led to concerns about internal and external instability. Israel's bombing in Qatar in September 2025, that led the Saudi government to rush a "mutual defence pact" with Pakistan, and reported negotiations of including Türkiye in the pact, portend a more complex and unstable region, with repercussions for India.

The announcement of the UAE-India negotiations for a defence agreement is being read by some as a possible military front to counter other regional alignments. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri attempted to downplay concerns, holding that the treaty was not about India's involvement in "a hypothetical future scenario in the region". Even so, the government must keep in mind ties not only with the UAE but also other important Gulf region countries, where nearly 10 million Indians reside. The GCC-area is a major energy source, especially as U.S. and EU sanctions have curtailed all of India's other important sources. India's cross-regional connectivity plans through Iran's Chabahar port, the International North South Transport Corridor and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor have been imperilled due to all the tensions as their future depends on cooperation with all players there. With important relationships in the region, and so many faultlines within it, India has little option but to tread lightly.

The 'Donroe doctrine', a broken international order

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

The new year began with a stark reminder that the over 200-year-old 'Monroe Doctrine' is not merely alive but has been given a fresh dimension, in keeping with the personality of United States President Donald Trump. In a swift operation as 2026 unfolded, U.S. airborne troops abducted Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife and incarcerated them in the U.S. on charges of undermining the security of the U.S. This action is being sanctified as the new 'Donroe Doctrine'.

Actions under the Trump administration

Protests worldwide against the U.S.'s action in violating the sovereignty of Venezuela have, however, been rather muted. This seems to convey the belief that the post-1945 international order is dead, and what exists now is a 'free for all' in the global commons. Voices are also being heard 'sotto voce', that the latest action by the U.S. might well become a prelude for similar actions by nations such as China and Russia to lay claim to countries and regions falling within their zone of influence – China's claim to Taiwan being one.

The action carried out has been characterised by Mr Trump himself as a modern version of the (1823) Monroe Doctrine, *viz.*, that the U.S. is the sole guarantor of security in the Western Hemisphere and would not brook any interference by powers outside the Hemisphere. A careful reading of President Trump's latest U.S. National Security Strategy, or NSS (November 2025) – which unequivocally states that after years of neglect, the U.S. expects to reassert its pre-eminence in the Western Hemisphere, denying non-Hemispheric competitors the ability to position forces or threaten U.S. vital assets in the Hemisphere – would suggest that the Venezuelan operation was a carefully thought through manoeuvre, and an updated 21st century version of 'US shock and awe' tactics. There is even an implicit threat of actions similar to Venezuela against Cuba, Colombia and Mexico. There is again an implicit reference to taking control of Greenland which is viewed by the U.S. as a security necessity.

From a U.S. perspective, it would seem that 2026 could see significant changes in different regions of the globe. Europe, for instance, which has come in for sharp criticism in the NSS document, has been excoriated on the ground that it had lost most, if not all, its sheen, alongside the suggestion that the U.S. could help Europe regain its former greatness if it backed patriotic European parties and 'genuine democracy'. The NSS document wants Europe to assume 'primary responsibility for its own defence', alongside a veiled reference to achieving strategic stability with Russia.

Going beyond Mr. Trump's NSS, realistically speaking, it would seem that the conflict in Ukraine, which appears stalemated at present, could move toward resolution, but which could be unsatisfactory to both sets of antagonists. The alternative, according to U.S. policymakers, appears to be that otherwise, it could lead to further escalation, alongside fears that it would engulf more regions of Europe.

It is a mixed bag as far as the global outlook for 2026 is concerned, marked by an updated version of the U.S.'s 'shock and awe' tactics

The situation closer to India

The situation in West Asia, it would seem, is beginning to resemble the proverbial curate's egg, good in parts. Israel's pogrom has come to an end for the present, but peace in the regime remains highly elusive. The situation in Gaza, in particular, remains highly sensitive and violence seems for the most part just round the corner.

Meantime, the growing violence and unrest that have engulfed Iran and the Khamenei regime is acting as a catalyst for a fresh round of conflict in and across the region. Iran is witnessing widespread internal violence, and the declared that it is "fighting on four fronts, *viz.*, an economic war, a psychological war, a military war against the US and Israel, and 'a war on terrorism'". The West has responded with warnings of imposing additional sanctions on Iran. Implicit in all this, is that both Israel and the U.S. see an opportunity to complete the unfinished conflict of 2025, and ensure that it reaches a 'satisfactory conclusion' in undermining the Khamenei regime in Iran.

Northwest Asia, specially Afghanistan, is meanwhile, set to confront more troubles this year. The Tehreek-e-Taliban and other Afghan terrorist groups appear, of late, to have gained a fresh lease of life, and this spells problems for Pakistan as well. The Afghanistan-Pakistan border will, hence, continue to remain troubled during much of this year. So, 2026 is again, not likely to be a good year for democracy in Pakistan, with the military taking firmer control of the country's affairs and Field Marshal Asim Munir eclipsing the importance of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, striking another blow to the country's democratic trajectory. However, Pakistan does appear to have gained a fresh lease of life, with the U.S. embracing it as an ally, promising a fresh tranche of state-of-the-art weapons, and in some ways being perceived as 'the most favoured nation of the US' in this part of the world. Meantime, uncertainty about the future of democracy will continue to prevail in the highly troubled state of Bangladesh, notwithstanding the promise of fresh elections and restoration of an elected government.

For China, 2025 seemed like a good year. While China-U.S. rivalry appeared to intensify, Beijing successfully withstood the tariff barrage unleashed by Mr. Trump, and even seemed to turn it to its advantage. China raised the value of its manufacturing and also demonstrated its hold over global supply chains.

China's restrictions on rare earth exports in the tussle with the U.S., seemed to enhance its ability to not only withstand U.S. pressures but also to convert the situation in its favour. While there were few opportunities for a trial of strength in the Pacific, China's growing presence in Southeast Asia is adding to China's importance in Asian and world affairs. It is increasingly becoming apparent as well that the Eastern Pacific is no longer a U.S. bailiwick. China's presence in the Indian Ocean is also growing and represents not only a major threat to nations bordering the Indian Ocean but, more importantly, also a challenge to U.S. supremacy here.

Notes for New Delhi

As 2026 progresses, India appears to stand at the crossroads, unsure as to where it stands. There has been no letup in Mr. Trump's tirade against India for continuing to import subsidised Russian oil, notwithstanding the fact that India is inclined to side with the U.S. on most matters. An implicit coldness in India-U.S. relations seems to be affecting India's relations with many other countries, resulting in New Delhi's relative isolation when it comes to conflict zones such as West Asia. Mr. Trump's public endorsement of Field Marshal Munir and the lifting of restrictions on arms supplies to Pakistan is also not helping. Despite this, there have been some positive developments with regard to an expansion of India-U.S. cooperation in some areas. Several mini-lateral initiatives, such as the I2U2 (India, Israel, the U.S., the UAE) and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor appear to be progressing.

As of now, Washington's foreign policy calculus and Beijing's disinterested approach to India are putting India at a disadvantage in political and economic terms, especially the latter. China's tactical advantage in trade and tariff disputes leaves little room or scope for India to hedge against U.S. threats to further raise tariffs on trade, thus aggravating current anxieties. For India, there is again little room for comfort in the fact that China's economic growth has not picked up of late, or that its domestic consumption remains stagnant. All this is notwithstanding an improvement in India-China ties following the Tianjin meeting of Prime Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping in 2025. A further stabilisation of India-China ties does not, however, appear likely in 2026.

Overall, 2026 may not have any great prospects for India. It may not, however, face any major terror attack during the year, but terrorism will remain an ever-present reality. West Asia having just undergone a sustained military campaign by Israel may be spared major terror attacks, but the upheaval in Iran and the attempt by Israel and the U.S. to wade into troubled waters could instigate some terror attacks. The Islamic State and al Qaeda seem better positioned in Africa as of now, but this is no reason to let one's guard down, as, overall, more attacks by insurgent and terrorist entities can be anticipated in Asia, West Asia and Africa. Terrorism could, hence, be regarded as a critical national security threat during 2026.

The EV boom is accelerating a copper crunch

Vipin Benny

is a research consultant, an Assistant Professor, and a Research Supervisor at St. Thomas College (Autonomous), Thrissur, Kerala. He is the author of 'Elevating Excellence: The Relevance of Internal Marketing in Higher Education Institutions in India' (2023) and 'Decoded Decisions: Behavioural Finance Meets Artificial Intelligence' (2025)

The global shift toward electric vehicles (EVs) is widely celebrated as a technological breakthrough and a vital step toward a greener future. However, there also lies a growing and underappreciated challenge: an impending copper crunch. Copper is indispensable for electrification and forms the backbone of EV batteries, motors, wiring, charging infrastructure, and power grids. As EV adoption accelerates, copper demand has entered a phase of exponential growth that many policymakers and markets have underestimated. Over the past decade, EVs have moved from a niche product to the fastest-growing segment of the global automotive industry, with profound consequences for the global commodity systems.

Between 2015 and 2025, global EV sales rose from approximately 0.55 million units to an estimated 20 million units, while associated copper consumption surged from roughly 27.5 thousand tonnes to over 1.28 million tons, showing copper to be the hidden backbone of the EV revolution. However, supply growth has lagged due to decades of underinvestment, declining ore grades, and the 10-15 year development cycle for new mines. Consequently, a structural supply deficit could emerge as early as 2026, reshaping global trade, intensifying geopolitical competition and influencing the cost and the pace of EV adoption. Therefore, the EV transition must be understood not only as a technological shift but also as a resource-intensive transformation constrained by metals as much as by markets.

In near perfect lockstep

One of the most striking features of the electric vehicle (EV) transition is the near one-to-one relationship between EV sales growth and copper demand, as reflected in elasticity estimates.

Between 2016 and 2024, the copper demand elasticity with respect to EV sales mostly exceeded 1.0, indicating that copper consumption increased faster than EV adoption despite sustained efforts to reduce metal intensity. During this period, EV-related copper demand surged from approximately 39,000 tonnes in 2016 to over 1.1 million tonnes in 2024, while global EV sales expanded from approximately 0.75 million units to around 17 million units. The linkage was especially pronounced in 2019, when elasticity peaked at 1.76, signalling a sharp rise in copper use per vehicle – driven by larger battery packs, increased power electronics and rapid charging infrastructure expansion. Although elasticity is projected to ease to approximately 0.90 by 2025, as efficiency gains emerge, the absolute copper demand will continue to rise owing to the scale of EV deployment. With EVs requiring four to five times more copper than internal combustion vehicles and no viable large-scale substitutes available, this synchrony underscores the persistent structural demand pressure. Ultimately, this copper-intensive trajectory, more than battery technology alone, will shape the pace of global electrification.

With demand threatening to outpace supply, there need to be bold actions in recycling and technological innovation

A global copper deficit phase

While copper demand is rising sharply, global supply has begun to plateau, creating a widening gap often described as a "jaw-opening deficit". Declining ore grades at existing mines, decade-long development timelines for new projects, and environmental opposition in major producing regions such as Chile, Peru and the United States constrain supply growth. In 2024, global supply is expected to exceed demand by approximately 0.3 million tonnes, but by 2026, demand is projected to reach 30 million tonnes, while supply lags at around 28 million tonnes.

This gap is expected to widen to 4.5 million tons by 2028 and nearly 8 million tons by 2030, equivalent to the output of the world's 10 largest copper mines combined. Such shortages could increase EV costs, delay the development of charging infrastructure, and strain decarbonisation targets. As electrification accelerates, copper scarcity may become the main bottleneck unless mining, recycling and material innovation are rapidly scaled up.

A reshaping of global market dynamics

The geography of EV-driven copper consumption signals a major shift in the global power balance, with China emerging as the dominant force in electric vehicle adoption and copper usage. China's EV-related copper demand surged from about 78,000 tonnes in 2020 to nearly 6,78,000 tonnes in 2024 and is projected to reach around 7,80,000 tonnes by 2025, accounting for almost 60% of global EV-based copper consumption. This dominance is driven not only by strong EV sales but also by China's control of over 70% of global battery cell production and its deeply integrated supply chain.

By 2025, EV-related copper demand is expected to reach approximately 210,000 tonnes in the European Union and 1,14,000 tonnes in the U.S., while India remains modest at roughly 7,200 tonnes. This asymmetry provides China with a structural advantage in terms of pricing power, long-term supply contracts, and strategic leverage over copper-rich regions. As copper becomes central to energy transition, securing access will rival battery technology as a global priority.

The EV revolution is not only reshaping transportation but also the global metals economy. Copper has emerged as a vital artery of electrification, and the world is rapidly approaching a moment when demand outpaces supply in ways that are unprecedented in modern industrial history. Policymakers, investors and environmental planners must recognise that the energy transition is inseparable from resource strategy. Without bold actions on copper supply, recycling, and technological innovation, the pace of electrification will be dictated by geology rather than ambition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The SIR exercise

The front page report, "SC flags 'stress and strain' by SIR to Bengal's people" (January 20), reminded me of my experience in Chennai some years ago. The enumerator had noted my age as 55 years and my father's as 65. My daughter's name was misspelt. When I pointed all these out to the person sitting before the computer, he said I could go to the tahsildar's office for corrections. The mistakes remained uncorrected. When it was time to vote, the election officer in the booth understood my predicament and allowed all three of us to vote. The Election Commission of India must be more serious in dealing with voters.

S.V. Venkatakrishnan,
Singapore

Recruitment, test

Many aspirants who wrote the examination on December 27, 2025, conducted by the Tamil Nadu Teachers Recruitment Board (TRB) for the post of Assistant Professor/College recruitment (2,708 posts), believe that the descriptive component, especially the essay section, leaves them vulnerable. The allocation of 50 marks for a single essay raises serious concerns, as it has the potential to significantly alter the overall score of a candidate.

There are worries that there could be foul play as bribery and favouritism are said to have been a factor in the interview selection process in previous TRB recruitments.

Swetha T.,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

Enhancing China-India youth ties

Qin Jie

Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Mumbai

The youth are the most active, dynamic, and promising force in all countries, especially in China and India. Both President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have attached great importance to the role of Gen Z and Gen Alpha in developing our countries and reaching centenary goals. Bilaterally and internationally, mutual understanding and friendly exchanges of the youth play a vital role in the healthy development of ties.

The Chinese youth

In China, young people have long been the vanguard in pursuing national dreams. In the past century of upheavals and changes, China's youth have remained a staunch force in contributing to the country and serving the people. Today, young people enjoy better living and development conditions given China's high-quality growth. In 2023, China's nine-year compulsory education achieved a consolidation rate of 95.7%; in 2024, its university enrolment rate reached 60.8%, with around 40% of the students enrolled in STEM programmes. During the 14th Five-Year period, millions of people received online college education, and over 50% of young workers have taken vocational training. Between 1978 and 2024, around 7.43 million Chinese students completed their studies abroad; of them, more than 6.44 million had returned to China.

Unlike the pre-1990s binary of 'farmers' and 'workers', young people in China today have diverse career choices. The service industry has increasingly attracted young workers, accounting for nearly half of the total employment in recent years. Rapid science and technology innovation and social transformation have turned high-tech sectors, non-public entities, and new social organisations into the main channels for employment. Young people are increasingly engaged in the digital economy and IT-based business and platforms, such as e-sports players, live-streaming hosts, and web writers. Liang Wenfeng, from Gen Z, led his young team to found the quantitative hedge fund High-Flyer and the open AI model DeepSeek. China's space station, Tiangong, hosts young crews of astronauts in their 30s and 40s. In creative industries such as culture, sports, and entertainment, young people account for more than half the workforce, and are at the helm of many unicorn and gazelle companies. The youth have also played a significant role in China's strategic projects, transporting electricity from western to eastern regions, diverting water from the south to the north, and constructing milestone facilities such as deep-sea submersibles, quantum science satellite, and the lunar and Mars probes.

China's youth uphold the belief that the world is a community with a shared future. As China's opening-up policy grows in both depth and scope, its youth are actively embracing the world, drawing inspiration from the achievements of other civilisations, and pursuing greater integration with the rest of the world. They are more confident and self-reliant in studying, working, and travelling abroad.

China and India have the world's largest youth populations. We have not only the largest number of students on campus, but also the highest numbers of students studying abroad. Over the years, our young leaders in business and trade have played a key role in strengthening economic and trade ties.Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Chinese and Indian youth were engaged in frequent exchanges in fields such as education, culture, arts, sports, and the media under various cultural and people-to-people exchange mechanisms. In November 2025, the Chinese Consulate General in Mumbai held photo exhibitions on the Indian Youth Delegation's 2024 Visit to China at St. Xavier's College and Somaiya Vidyavihar University. Themed 'Beyond borders, between hearts', the photos retold the stories of young Indians in China, especially focusing on their interactions with Chinese peers. These events have drawn the attention of thousands of students.

> Mutual understanding and friendly exchanges of the youth play a vital role in the healthy development of ties

Development of ties

We have already seen many strong and positive signals. The successful Kazanand Tianjin meetings between President Xi and Prime Minister Modiin 2024 and 2025 have led to a steady and continuous improvement in ties. In the first nine months of 2025, China-India bilateral trade grew 11.95% year-on-year to $104 billion, and in November, India's export of goods to China increased 90% year-on-year to $2.2 billion, making China the third largest export destination for Indian goods. China resumed the pilgrimage for the Indian people to the sacred Mount Gang Renpoche and Lake Mapam Yun Tso in Xizang's Ngari Prefecture and India resumed tourist visas issuance to Chinese citizens. Several direct flights between the Chinese mainland and India have been resumed, and in 2026 we are seeing more flight lines. China's famous pianist, Lang Lang, performed in India recently, enhancing cultural exchanges between Chinese and Indian artists.

More than 100 years ago, the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore told Indian parents, "Don't limit a child to your own learning, for he was born in another time." In China, Chairman Mao said to the youth in 1957, "The world is yours, as well as ours, but in the final sense, it is yours. You young people, full of vigour and vitality, are in the bloom of life, like the sun at eight or nine in the morning." In pursuing the modernisation dreams of our two countries, we are glad to see more fruitful exchanges between our young generations.

Action without accountability

Transfers and suspensions after public crises point to damage control

STATE OF PLAY

Mehul Malpani
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On January 2, the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) Commissioner, Dileep Kumar Yadav, was transferred after a diarrhoea outbreak claimed several lives. The tragedy occurred as the drinking water supplied by the IMC was contaminated. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav suspended various officials of the civic body apart from Mr. Dileep Yadav. He said that the government "will not tolerate negligence in the incident that occurred in Bhagirathpura, Indore". The transfer and suspensions came following anger against IMC officials over delays in repairing and replacing decades-old drinking water and sewage pipelines.

Mr. Dileep Yadav was appointed Deputy Secretary in the Panchayat and Rural Development Department. However, on January 18, amid a major reshuffle of bureaucrats, he was appointed Managing Director of the State Tourism Development Corporation. This is considered a prestigious posting given the significance of tourism in the State. The timing was odd too: 11 patients continue to be in hospital. While an audit report of government doctors has pegged the death toll at 15, local reports say at least 24 people have died in the tragedy.

Mr. Dileep Yadav was appointed the IMC Commissioner last September. The allegations of delays and unresolved complaints in Indore predate his brief tenure. However, his latest appointment brings focus to the regime's approach in the wake of a tragedy.

Every time a tragedy occurs, there is public resentment against the government. The government suspends or transfers officials in the eye of the storm. In most cases, it initiates an inquiry. However, the same officials soon find their way back into the system with new postings. Sometimes, they even have bigger responsibilities. The question that naturally arises is: were they solely responsible for the negligence? And if not, where does accountability lie?

Following Mr. Dileep Yadav's new posting, the Congress lambasted the BJP government. State Congress president Jitu Patwari wrote on X, "...This is not [the] BJP's good governance, this is a reward system for insensitivity! [The] BJP is not concerned about accountability, [the] BJP is only worried about management and messaging!"

In January 2024, Mr. Mohan Yadav removed IAS officer Kishore Kanyal as the Shajapur district collector after a purported video showed him allegedly involved in an argument with a representative of protesting truck drivers. Mr. Kanyal was appointed the Deputy Secretary of the Forest Department the same month and has since held the role of Collector of two districts.

A former Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh, who served during the Digvijaya Singh-led Congress government, told The Hindu that this pattern has increased over the past few years. "If the government takes action against an official, it means that prima facie, it considers the official responsible. But if it gives the official an important posting soon after the episode, it makes the decision look like an effort to dial down public anger," he said. "This harms the system in three ways: accountability is not fixed, public attention shifts, and long-term improvements are overlooked. Laxity spreads in the administration because bureaucrats may feel that they can get away with anything."

Another former Chief Secretary, who served during Shivraj Singh Chouhan's regime, had a different view. He said that swift action during a crisis allows the government to focus on finding solutions. "After any crisis, there is a need to first cool down passions even as the government takes short- or long-term steps to fix the problem. It does not mean that the government has ignored the problem. Rather, doing this will help it focus on the real issue," he argued. He added that it is necessary to take corrective measures after the immediate action.

Mr. Dileep Yadav's case is another instance in a broader pattern of swift government action, often seen as damage control, with the Chief Minister or Ministers projecting a tough stance. However, while officials face action following tragedies or controversial remarks, BJP minister Vijay Shah, who made objectionable comments against Army officer Sofia Qureshi, faces no action. This is despite an FIR being filed against him and the Supreme Court's directive to decide on prosecution sanction within two weeks. These developments show that swift action is taken against officials to manage outrage, while political responsibility and accountability remain elusive.

To compete with China, India may need China

With India set to scrap curbs on Chinese FDI, will China want to invest in India?

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis

The Ministry of Finance is set to scrap curbs on Chinese firms bidding for government contracts, which were introduced in 2020. The curbs were imposed following a deadly clash between the countries' troops in the Galwan Valley. They required Chinese bidders to register with an Indian government committee and obtain political and security clearances. According to Reuters, this resulted in China losing out on contracts worth $700-750 billion.

Notably, even during periods when India had a more favourable stance, direct Chinese investment remained low. China directly contributed less than 1% of India FDI equity inflows from 2000 to 2021 **(Chart 1)**, showing that recent curbs only add pressure.

However, China's cumulative (direct and indirect) FDI inflows before 2020 into India are difficult to calculate as they were mostly routed through tax havens, according to Santosh Pai, Partner at Denton's Link Legal and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies. "Chinese investments almost never go directly into a country," he told *The Hindu*.

These means of investments were wholly altered when the Indian government issued 'Press Note 3' in April 2020, which specifically stated that an entity of a country, which shares a land border with India, or where the beneficial owner is a citizen of any such country, requires mandatory approval from the Government of India before for an investment can be executed. Pai estimated that this dented any indirect investments that Chinese companies had slated for India.

A few years after this policy amendment, India's Ministry of Finance, in its annual Economic Survey for 2023-24, suggested that increased FDI inflows from China can help increase India's global supply chain participation and push exports. The Ministry took note of the U.S.' and Europe's shift away from sourcing imports directly from China. The U.S.' total trade with China reduced in 2023 and remained stagnant in 2024 **(Chart 2A)**. The European Union also saw a similar dip in trade with China in 2023 **(Chart 2B)**.

The Survey stated that FDI from China could boost India's exports to the U.S., "similar to how East Asian economies did in the past." Pai elaborated on India's change of heart. "Due to China's dominance in most markets, India cannot attract global supply chains which want to diversify from China without including Chinese companies in the mix," he said.

India has proven to be a ready alternative for the U.S. to replace China in at least one of the major items. Due to its dominance in the manufacturing of components, China made up more than 60% of the U.S.'s imports of smartphones in 2016. However, 10 years later, China's share has dwindled to about 22% of the U.S.'s smartphone imports, majorly due to higher tariffs **(Chart 3A)**. Meanwhile, countries such as Vietnam, Thailand, and India have shown upticks in their shares of U.S.'s smartphone imports **(Chart 3B)**. However, the possibility of replicating this success, without China's help, in other items as well is slim as of now.

While China's FDI stock (or cumulative FDI inflows) to most of its staple investment destinations have increased over the years, its stock with India has declined over the past decade. **Table 4** shows that when Chinese FDI stock is ranked, India fell by 19 ranks between 2014 and 2024.

Pai stated that although China was eager to invest in Indian companies, the curbs that were set in 2020 may have projected an unpredictable environment for investment.

Pragmatism over protectionism

The data were sourced from DPIIT, UN Comtrade, Eurostat, U.S. Census and China's Ministry of Commerce

Chart 2A: The U.S.'s total trade (sum of imports and exports) with China over the years (in $. bn = billion)

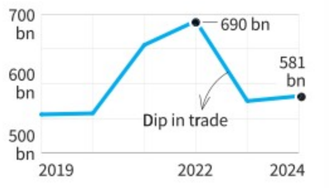
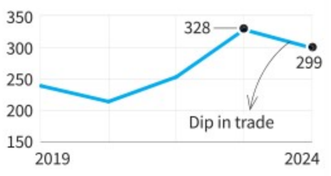


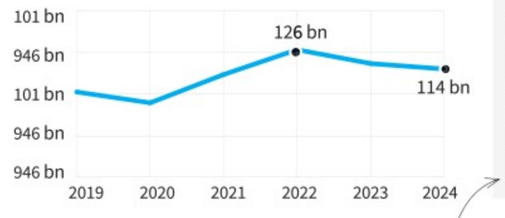
Chart 2B: The European Union's total trade (sum of imports and exports) with China over the years (in $)



■ *The figures in chart 2B for the EU's trade were sourced from Eurostat data wherein exports and imports are indexed at 100 each, with 2013 as the starting year. Using this method, EU's total trade in 2013, which includes imports and exports, is represented as 200. In 2019 the index had increased to 239*

The figure for the years between 2000 and 2021 is cumulative

Chart 3A: The U.S.'s overall smartphone imports over the years. Values in $ (bn = billion)



■ *China made up more than 60% of the U.S.'s imports of smartphones in 2016. However, 10 years later, China's share has dwindled to about 22% of the U.S.'s imports, majorly due to higher tariffs*

Chart 3B: Select countries' share in the U.S.'s import of smartphones over the years. Here, data on "smartphones" refers to the import of "Telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks"

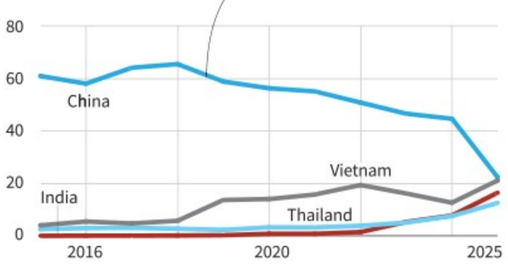


Table 4
China's country-wise Outward Direct Investment (ODI) stock in 2014 and 2024. The countries are ranked in descending order of China's ODI stock with them. Stock corresponds to cumulative FDI flows over the years

2014 rank	Country	Stock at end-2014 ($ million)	2024 rank	Country	Stock at end-2024 ($ million)
1	Hong Kong	509,919.83	1	Hong Kong	1,920,809.36
2	British Virgin Islands	49,320.41	2	British Virgin Is.	331,910.47
3	Cayman Islands	44,236.72	3	Cayman Islands	214,933.81
4	United States	38,010.97	4	Singapore	102,641.42
5	Australia	23,882.26	5	United States	89,959.17
6	Singapore	20,639.95	6	Netherlands	38,422.28
7	Luxembourg	15,666.77	7	Australia	34,011.22
8	United Kingdom	12,804.65	8	United Kingdom	30,575.22
9	Russia	8,694.63	9	Indonesia	25,482.34
10	Canada	7,789.08	10	Luxembourg	25,153.62
..15	India	3,407.21	...34	India	2,449.77

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 21, 1976

CIA was unable to predict Indian nuclear test

Washington, Jan. 20: A post-mortem assessment of the Central Intelligence Agency's activities abroad has criticised the U.S. intelligence community for failing to predict the underground nuclear test conducted by India in May 1974. This failure, it is said to have admitted, deprived American policymakers of advance warning of the event, which they could have used to "consider diplomatic or other initiatives to prevent this significant step in nuclear proliferation". The CIA's "shortcoming" in this instance is ascribed to its failure to interpret photographs taken by U.S. spy satellites which were later found to have clearly shown India's nuclear testing facilities.

This CIA self-criticism is said to be contained in documents the agency provided to the House Select Committee on Intelligence, which along with another committee set up by the Senate, is conducting a probe of the CIA. The contents of the House Committee report, though still secret, have found their way into the American press. The report also refers to the agency's failure to predict other events such as the Russian preparations to oust Alexander Dubcek from power in Czechoslovakia in August 1968, the West Asia war of 1973, the overthrow of Makarios in Cyprus the next year and the military coup in Portugal.

The report also questions Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger's approval of a project to supply weapons to Kurdish rebels in Iraq. Though the CIA itself was against the idea, Dr. Kissinger is said to have ordered it as a favour to the Shah of Iran, who was then feuding with neighbouring Iraq.

Other unsavoury doings of the CIA referred to in the report involve the agency's indiscriminate use of Government funds.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 21, 1926

New dam on blue Nile

Rugby, Jan. 20: The great new Makwar Dam on the Blue Nile in Sudan will be officially opened by Lord Lloyd, British High Commissioner in Egypt, tomorrow. The Dam represents one of the world's greatest engineering feats and it is estimated that it will bring into cultivation immediately some 300,000 acres of land, which have hitherto been an arid desert.

From Page One

Governor altered policy address, says Kerala CM

In paragraph 15, the Governor omitted the following section from the Cabinet-approved version: "Bills passed by State legislatures have remained pending for prolonged periods. My government has approached the Supreme Court on these issues, which have been referred to a Constitution Bench."

The Cabinet-approved section in paragraph 16 stated: "Tax devolution and Finance Commission grants are constitutional entitlements of States and not acts of charity, and any pressure on constitutional bodies entrusted with this task undermines federal principles." Mr. Vijayan said the Governor prefaced this section with the words, "My government feels..."

Article 176 of the Constitution mandates a special address by the Governor to State legislatures at the commencement of the first session after a general election and at the start of the first session each year. Tuesday's address by Mr. Arlekar marked the beginning of the first session of 2026 and the 16th and final session of the 15th Kerala Assembly. The State is due to go to the polls later this year.

The CPI(M)-led Left government's relations with Lok Bhavan have not been cordial in recent years. In January 2024, then Governor Arif Mohammed Khan had created headlines when he wrapped up his policy address in less than a minute. The government's relationship with Mr. Arlekar had also soured over a number of issues, including delays in securing assent for Bills passed by the Assembly.

At a press conference announcing the 16th session last week, Speaker A.N. Shamseer said that 14 Bills passed by the Kerala Assembly were awaiting assent.

T.N. Governor refuses to read customary address

During the remainder of the session, a debate will be held on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address to the House.

On Tuesday morning, soon after the Governor was escorted in, all members stood for the singing of the *Tamil Thaai Vaazhthu*, the State anthem. While others settled in their seats after the song, the Governor initially kept standing, as the tablet placed in front of him displayed the text of the prepared address, to help him read from. He later took his seat.

The Governor began by extending New Year wishes to the members but then went on to digress from the prepared address. Speaker M. Appavu, seated next to him, stood up and requested the Governor to read out the speech given to him by following the procedure. Realising that the Governor had ignored his request, the Speaker continued to plead with him to read out the prepared speech.

An uneasy silence prevailed among members of the House, with Mr. Stalin and Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K. Palaniswami in attendance, as the customary procedure was not being honoured, yet again. During the past three years, the Governor has either digressed from the prepared speech or refused to read it out and walked out of the House.

Citing Constitutional provisions, the Speaker reminded the House about the duties of the Governor. "The Governor cannot voice out his opinion in the Assembly. Please follow the procedure," the Speaker requested repeatedly, reminding the Assembly that only its 234 elected members are permitted to express their opinions on the floor of the House.

Later, the Governor chose to walk out of the House. Sources said that Assembly officials escorted the Governor and his aides to his convoy.

SIR order was legislative, approach liberal, says EC

Countering attacks that SIR lacked statutory backing and the poll panel invented the procedure out of 'thin air', the EC says Article 324 provided it with the freedom to prepare the electoral roll

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission in the Supreme Court on Tuesday said the order declaring special intensive revision (SIR) was "legislative" in character and the mammoth exercise which followed to "purify" electoral rolls was marked by a "liberal approach".

The poll body's submission before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant is despite reports that 6.5 crore names of electors have been excluded from draft electoral rolls in nine States and three Union Territories during the second phase of the SIR exercise.

But the poll panel, represented by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, said its authority to conduct and control elections were drawn from the vast reservoir of power found in Article 324 of the Constitution.

Mr. Dwivedi said the powers of the commission were not just administrative in nature, but also adjudicatory and legislative. He referred to the powers under the Election Symbols Order to sit and decide which faction was the real one when a political party split as an illustration of its adjudicatory function.

People queue up for hearings under the special intensive revision of electoral rolls, in Balurghat of West Bengal on Tuesday. PTI

"The SIR order was legislative in character. It laid down the complete set of principles and documents required and how it would be done," Mr. Dwivedi submitted.

Countering attacks from petitioners that the SIR did not have any statutory backing and the poll panel invented the procedure out of "thin air", Mr. Dwivedi said Article 324 provided the commission with the freedom to "deviate" as an enabling feature to prepare the electoral roll, considering the myriad situations that may occur in time.

Besides, he said, Parliament and the poll panel enjoyed a symbiotic relationship. Both institutions existed to ensure that democracy functioned smoothly, that elections took place and Parliament was attended by elected representatives.

Mr. Dwivedi said the powers of the poll panel have, over the years, been preserved and not "shut out". The senior advocate, explaining the liberal approach adopted in the SIR 2025, said the presumption was always in favour of citizenship.

"It is not that we did not attach presumption... Had we not attached presumption, we would have asked everyone from 2003 to produce evidence," he submitted.

Mr. Dwivedi said the people were excluded from the final list in Bihar due to deaths, duplication and migration. He said prefilled enumeration forms were issued to all persons in electoral rolls up to June 2025. Probative value was attached to names already included in the electoral roll prepared after the 2002 SIR.

"These people who could provide nexus with the 2002 list were not required to provide any documents," Mr. Dwivedi said.

Others who could not show nexus had to only show any one of the 11-plus (including Aadhaar) indicative documents.

"House-to-house survey with prefilled form was done. They (voters) simply needed to sign the forms. BLOs were charged with the responsibility of uploading them. Booth Level Agents of political parties were submitting 50 forms in a day," said Mr. Dwivedi, detailing the liberal attitude taken in the 2025 SIR.

Bengal BDO offices vandalised as SIR protests continue

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Congress supporters held protests outside the office of Chief Electoral Officer in Kolkata on Tuesday

Violent protests continued in different parts of West Bengal over the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, with local people attacking the Block Development Offices (BDOs) where the SIR hearings are being held.

The BDO offices at Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district and at Basanti in South 24 Parganas district both came under attack. A mob was seen vandalising office furniture and burning tyres in front of the BDO office at Basanti. Large groups of people also blocked roads with burning tyres at multiple locations, including at Maheshtala and Dholahat in South 24 Parganas, Polba in Hooghly, and Barasat in North 24 Parganas.

The Sandeshkhali Block Development Officer, Sayantan Sen, said that furniture and computers were vandalised and officials were threatened by criminal elements in the mob.

'Transparent SIR'

The protests erupted a day after the Supreme Court observed that the SIR in West Bengal should be transparent and not cause inconvenience. The court also directed the Election Commission to display the names of voters whose SIR forms were found to have "logical discrepancies" at gram panchayat bhavans and block offices.

This is not the first time that BDO offices have been attacked during the ongoing SIR in the State, with the offices at Farakka in Murshidabad district and Chakulia in Uttar Dinjapur district facing earlier attacks by angry mobs.

On Tuesday, Congress supporters held protests outside the office of Chief Electoral Officer in Kolkata.

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, of the BJP, said the ruling Trinamool Congress was unleashing "anarchy" across the State in the name of SIR protests. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written five letters to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on the SIR. In her fifth letter dated January 12, she had pointed out that many genuine voters were being wrongly categorised as "logical discrepancies" .

Bengal will resist moves that make voting 'burdensome'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Branding the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) being carried out by the Election Commission (EC) as "Software Intensive Rigging", the Trinamool Congress on Tuesday stressed the need for more "transparency" in the ongoing process for electoral roll revision in West Bengal.

The remarks come a day after the Supreme Court's observations criticising the EC for causing "stress and strain" to the people of West Bengal where 1.36 crore people, almost 20% of the State's population, have received notices from the poll body to explain "logical discrepancies" in their names and family backgrounds.

The Trinamool leader said the people would fight those who were making the electoral process "burdensome" for them.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Rajya Sabha floor leader Derek O'Brien reiterated that the Trinamool was not against the SIR. "We are for SIR, but we are for a transparent, planned, humane SIR," he said.

"What does SIR actually stand for? Software Intensive Rigging... The EC is one of the great institutions of our country, which has kept democracy vibrant for so many decades, but what has been happening now is a dismantling of this great institution," Mr. O'Brien said.

SC to examine query by T.N., Kerala on whether ED is a 'juristic person'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to examine petitions filed by the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu asking if the Enforcement Directorate (ED), a Central agency, is a "juristic person" who can approach High Courts for enforcement of its "rights".

A 'juristic' person is a legal fiction by which a non-human, like an incorporated company, is recognised to have rights, duties, sue or be sued like a 'natural' person.

A Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma took serious note of the question of law raised by the States, which have been riddled by ED raids and legal actions in recent times. The

Kerala said the ED cannot consider itself a 'person' but is only a statutory creation.

Bench issued a notice to the ED, posting the case for hearing after four weeks.

Kerala said the ED cannot consider itself a "person" but is only a statutory creation.

The train of events began with the ED filing a writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution before the Kerala High Court. The agency had challenged a notification issued by the State in May 2021 setting up a Commission of Inquiry (CoI) to investigate an audio clip and a letter from two accused persons in the gold smuggling case. The duo had alleged that ED officials were coaxing them to implicate persons holding high offices in the State. The State government had tasked the Inquiry Commission to probe if there was a conspiracy afoot against the State's political leaders and, if so, to unearth the identity of those behind the plot.

On hearing of Kerala's cause, Tamil Nadu has joined ranks with its neighbour in the Supreme Court.

Tamil Nadu accused the ED of indulging in a "gross and blatant abuse of the process of law by invoking the writ jurisdiction of the Madras High Court seeking mandamus for registration of a case relating to alleged illegal mining". It argued that the ED's writs in the High Court were "unmaintainable".

Both States want the Supreme Court to decide the question of law authoritatively.

"A statutory body can exercise only the power conferred by the relevant statute and all statutory bodies need not be body corporate with power to sue. Only a body corporate, with power to sue specifically conferred by the statute, can claim legal status or juristic person, which the Enforcement Directorate admittedly does not have...," Kerala argued.

Mob violence over road accident claims two lives in western Assam

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Mob violence over a road accident on Monday night claimed two lives in western Assam's Kokrajhar district, plunging a strategic area into chaos and threatening to reopen old wounds.

The government reacted by suspending mobile data services in Kokrajhar and the adjoining Chirang districts, and rushing the Army and the Rapid Action Force of the Central Reserve Police Force to the trouble-torn areas.

A notification issued by the State's Home Department on Tuesday said the government received a report from the Kokrajhar District Commissioner regarding a serious law-and-order situation "that has arisen in the district during the night when one Scorpio vehicle with 3 Bodo individuals hit 2 Adivasi persons at Mansingh Road under the Karigaon (police) outpost of Kokrajhar police station".

Police deployed during a protest between two groups on the National Highway in Kokrajhar on Tuesday. ANI VIDEO GRAB

The notification stated that the Bodo individuals were beaten up by "neighbouring Adivasi villagers" and the vehicle was torched. "...the incident has escalated involving both the Bodo and Adivasi communities blocking the National Highway adjacent to Karigaon outpost, burning tyres and a few houses and setting fire to an office building and also attacking the Karigaon outpost," it said.

According to the police, trouble began when a group of local villagers allegedly attempted to stop a vehicle, on the suspicion that its occupants were cattle lifters.

"The occupants of the vehicle were associated with a road construction project and were returning from an inspection. The driver refused to stop, but the vehicle soon met with an accident," a district police officer said.

The mob then attacked the occupants and set the vehicle on fire.

The victims were taken to the Kokrajhar Medical College and Hospital, where one of them – Sikhna Jwhwlao Bismit, the son-in-law of the contractor of the road project – died of his injuries Monday night. Another victim, Sunil Murmu, succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday.

India withdraws families of diplomats from Bangladesh

Kallol Kanti Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The evacuation was carried out given the security situation, as a precautionary measure, say officials

Ahead of the February 12 election and referendum, India has withdrawn all family members and dependents of diplomats and other officials from the High Commission of India and other missions located in Bangladesh, official sources said on Tuesday, citing prevailing security situation

A source said that the evacuation of family members and dependents was carried out "given the security situation, as a precautionary measure". Indian diplomats, however, said the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and all posts in Bangladesh continue to operate in 'full strength'.

Indian missions have been facing heightened security threat in Bangladesh, especially in the aftermath of the December 12, 2025 shooting of Islamist youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi. The threats started soon after reports and rumours were circulated suggesting that the shooters of Hadi had fled to India like deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

India had reminded Bangladesh's interim government that it was the responsibility of the Government of Bangladesh to ensure security of Indian missions and posts.

Envoys to attend event by Fisheries Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ambassadors and High Commissioners from about 80 countries will attend a "Fisheries Round Table" organised by the Union Fisheries Ministry here on Wednesday to find new export destinations for Indian seafood. The Ministry said the meeting was for strengthening bilateral trade and international market linkage.

The event, to be chaired by Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Rajiv Ranjan Singh, will discuss promotion of sustainable, traceable and value-added seafood trade. The meeting will also identify avenues for investment, joint ventures, technology transfer and capacity building.

APPEAL

Umapathy is 18 years old suffering from Severe MR needs to undergo Mitral Valve Replacement (Heart Surgery) at Public Health Centre, Chennai. The total expenditure is **Rs. 2,00,000/-**. His father is a farmer with poor income. They are not in a position to meet the cost of the treatment. Please help him to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

Congress takes a swipe at the poll process for new BJP chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday mocked the BJP over the appointment of its new national president, Nitin Nabin, alleging that the ruling party had dispensed with any real electoral process while formally describing the exercise as an election.

"Where is the election? Why do you even call it an election? You announce the president first and then say there will be an election, and then there is no election," Congress's media and publicity department chairperson Pawan Khera said, reacting to the announcement at a press conference in New Delhi.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remark that Mr. Nabin was his "boss" in party matters, Mr. Khera likened the process to a television reality show, asking whether the BJP was "playing *Bigg Boss*". "They can keep playing games among themselves. Sometimes Mohan Bhagwat becomes someone's boss, sometimes Modi becomes someone's boss," he said.

Mr. Khera also took a dig at Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, whom the Congress has been accusing of presiding over flawed electoral processes in its alleged 'vote *chori*' (theft) campaign.

"Gyanesh Kumar wants to resign in protest; he has no role. He can't influence, he can't even manipulate anything," Mr. Khera said, in a sarcastic remark aimed at the poll authority.

Nitin Nabin formally assumes role as BJP's national chief

PM Narendra Modi says that in party matters, he is a worker accountable to the president; ahead of Assembly polls, Nabin slams Opposition for 'interfering with cultural and religious traditions'

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Nitin Nabin, 45, formally took charge as the BJP's new national president on Tuesday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who declared that, in party matters, Mr. Nabin would be his "boss".

Mr. Modi's remarks sought to assert the separation of the BJP organisation headed by the new party president and the government headed by the Prime Minister himself. He had previously made a similar statement in 2019, during a press conference alongside the former BJP president Amit Shah.

"I, too, as a party worker, was giving an account of my work to the new president. I have given an account of my work. He will now write my CR [confidential report]. I am awaiting his guidance," Mr. Modi said. "When it comes to party matters, honourable Nitin Nabin ji... I am a worker, and you are my boss," he added.

In a reference to Mr. Nabin's relative youth, Mr. Modi said that he belonged to an era where he listened to the news on the radio in childhood and is now well-versed in using artificial intelligence.

Mr. Nabin was declared the BJP national president at the party headquarters on Monday after 37 nominations received on his behalf were found to be correct, with no other candidate in the fray following a nearly year-long exercise of organisational polls.

PM Narendra Modi and newly elected BJP chief Nitin Nabin at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

On political issues, Mr. Modi said that infiltrators posed a serious threat to the country's security and stressed that identifying and sending them back was necessary.

Congress's mistakes

Targeting the Congress, he urged BJP workers to learn from the mistakes committed by that party. He noted that in 1984, the Congress had won more than 400 seats in the Lok Sabha election with more than 50% of the votes. "But today, the Congress is yearning to cross the 100-seat mark," he said.

In contrast, he said that the BJP conducts a dispassionate review of its performance even after winning elections and tries to improve in regions where it faces a loss, citing the recent victory of the BJP in the civic body polls in Maharashtra.

'Ideals do not change'

"In the BJP, presidents change, but ideals do not change. Leadership changes, but the direction does not change," he said.

Former BJP presidents, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Roads and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Health Minister J.P. Nadda, were also present at the event.

Taking up the reins, Mr. Nabin spoke of his history in the BJP and expressed his gratitude to the party's central leadership as well as party workers for his elevation to the president's post.

On top of his list of future challenges are the upcoming Assembly elections in four States and one Union Territory.

Assembly elections

"In the next few months, elections are about to be held in Tamil Nadu, Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, and Puducherry, and the demographics of these States are being widely discussed. The changing demographics are altering the situation there, and this presents a challenge for us," he said.

He criticised Opposition parties for allegedly trying to interfere with cultural and religious traditions, citing the recent controversy over the Karthigai Deepam festival in Tamil Nadu and the attempt to impeach a judge of the Madras High Court over the matter.

"Recently we saw how Opposition parties tried to stop the sacred Karthigai Deepam festival on a hill in Tamil Nadu. This isn't the only instance; the Opposition has conspired to stop other things as well. We recently saw how an attempt was made to impeach a judge. Today, when we talk about Somnath and try to celebrate this festival of pride, the people in the Opposition feel uneasy. We believe that it is necessary to confront the forces that try to stop such traditions. We must ensure that those who deny the existence of Ram Setu and oppose the Karthigai Deepam festival have no place in Indian politics," Mr. Nabin added.

Politics is a long marathon, not a sprint, says Nabin

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

BJP president urges youth to actively participate in politics, rather than distancing from it

Newly elected BJP national president Nitin Nabin took formal charge on Tuesday morning, with his elevation being seen as a generational leap for the party's future leadership. The 45-year-old leader spoke at length on the inclusion of young people within the organisation and on managing expectations among his own cohort.

"On August 15, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address from the ramparts of the Red Fort said that he wanted to bring in one lakh politically unaffiliated youngsters into politics. I want to tell the youth that politics is not a shortcut. It is not a 100 metre sprint, but a long marathon, where success is not determined by speed, but by stamina. Therefore continuous effort and strengthening grassroots foundation is essential," he said. "The youth of this country must understand that distancing themselves from politics is not a solution, active participation is the only solution," he added.

Mr. Nabin referred to the BJP's "watch tower" system of supervision, under which party workers are observed and identified for higher responsibility. These remarks are being seen as signalling the possible direction of organisational appointments under his leadership as he sets about putting a new team in place.

Mr. Nabin's election is also being viewed as a continuation of the generational shift initiated under former party president J.P. Nadda, during whose tenure efforts were made to lower the average age of party leadership from the district level upwards to around 45 to 50 years.

As per organisational polls held at the time, in 98 organisational districts of Uttar Pradesh, only two districts had presidents over the age of 45. In Bihar, the same pattern was followed, with the average age in its 45 organisational districts being 45, and no office-bearer above 50. In Karnataka, which has 36 organisational districts, the average age ranged between 39 and 55 years.

Among BJP Chief Ministers too, a preference for a generational shift has been evident. Devendra Fadnavis was 44 when he became Maharashtra Chief Minister in 2014. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is 55, while Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was 44 when he first assumed office in 2017.

Mr. Nabin's elevation to the top organisational post is therefore seen as a signal that more younger leaders could find a place in the team that will steer the party towards the 2029 Lok Sabha election.

Summoning of journalists in J&K is a concern, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday expressed concern over reports of journalists from national newspapers being summoned and questioned for what it described as "routine reporting" in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), saying such actions undermined democratic functioning and press freedom.

In a statement posted on X, AICC in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir, Syed Naseer Hussain, said a democratic society could not function if "the basic act of asking questions is treated as an act of defiance".

He said journalists in the region had, for years, worked under conditions that tested both professional integrity and personal security.

Referring to repeated summons, restrictions and administrative pressure, Mr. Hussain said these had become part of the environment in which Kashmiri journalists were expected to discharge their constitutional role.

The Congress, he said, shared the "deep anguish" of the people of J&K and of journalists and the free media in the region, who continued to bear the consequences of such a "climate".

He called upon the office of the Lieutenant-Governor to ensure that governance in J&K was exercised through "transparent, consultative, and lawful means".

Activists urge SC to treat hate speech as a constitutional tort

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Prominent activists and religious leaders on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to recognise hate speech as a "constitutional tort" rather than a mere disruption of law and order. They contended that its inherently "discriminatory" character strikes at the core of constitutional guarantees.

A constitutional tort is a judicial remedy through which the State can be held vicariously liable for the actions of its agents when they violate constitutional guarantees.

A Bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta was hearing a batch of petitions highlighting the rise in hate speech incidents and seeking directions to regulate religious gatherings and congregations that promote such practices. The Bench reserved its order and directed the parties to file their written submissions within two weeks.

Appearing for activist Syeda Hameed and academic Alok Rai, advocate Shahrukh Alam submitted that hate speech could not be reduced to a routine policing concern. "Hate speech must be viewed beyond the prism of law and order, given its discriminatory impact. Treating it as a constitutional tort would ensure greater accountability," she told the court.

Echoing these concerns, advocate Nizam Pasha, appearing for journalist-petitioners Shaheen Abdullah and Qurban Ali, pointed out that despite the Supreme Court's October 21,

Petitioner contended that there is a direct correlation between hate speech and hate crimes.

2022, order directing States to register *suo motu* FIRs against those delivering hate speeches that incite communal violence, there had been little change on the ground.

"Such speeches are often delivered by habitual offenders. There is clear prior knowledge of the nature of these religious congregations, yet there is persistent inaction by State investigating agencies," Mr. Pasha said.

He further contended that even when aggrieved individuals approach police stations seeking registration of FIRs, law enforcement authorities routinely flout the court's directions. "In several cases, FIRs are either refused or, even when registered, the appropriate penal provisions are not invoked...," he said.

Mr. Pasha further apprised the Bench that there is a direct correlation between hate speech and hate crimes, with acts of violence frequently following incendiary public speeches. Urging the court not to dispose of the petitions, he sought continued judicial oversight of the matter.

Modi govt. systematically strangling protections for the poor, says Rahul

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his BJP government of undermining the protections provided for poor people and attempting to centralise power.

On a visit to Rae Bareli, his Lok Sabha constituency, Mr. Gandhi alleged that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) had been undermined by the BJP.

"Narendra Modi wants to take all the power into his hands and starve the poor. Removing Gandhiji's name from MGNREGA is an insult to him. But the main issue isn't just the name change. The Modi government has eliminated the protections that were provided to our poor people," Mr. Gandhi said. "The Congress party is agitating across the country to save MGNREGA and we stand firmly with the workers to protect them. On the one hand, we are protecting the public and on the other hand, Narendra Modi is taking away all the money of the country and giving it to selected industrialists," he added.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi meets people during a public meeting at the 'MGNREGA Chaupal', in Rae Bareli on Tuesday. ANI

'Weakening MGNREGA'

He was addressing a MGNREGA Chaupal in his constituency, aimed at educating people about the loopholes in the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAM G), which replaces the UPA-era MGNREGA, 2005.

He accused the government of systematically "strangling" MGNREGA so that funds meant for workers, women, and the poor could be diverted to big industrialists like Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani. "The BJP is not able to end the scheme openly, so they are weakening it slowly," he said, adding that the Congress has launched a nationwide movement to protect MGNREGA.

The rulers of India are only working for the rich, he said. "Unemployment is the major issue in the country but they [the BJP] will not talk about it. They would try to deviate you whenever the issue of unemployment is raised. We are witness to two different Indias today, one is for the billionaires, rich and the other for the poor," the Leader of Opposition said.

Mr. Gandhi also inaugurated 31 development projects under the MP Development Fund and laid the foundation stones of eight new projects at the Bhuemau Guest House in Rae Bareli. "Through these development projects, an important step has been taken towards strengthening the infrastructure in Rae Bareli, improving public amenities and giving new impetus to local development," he said.

Congress slams U.P. govt. notice to seer over usage of title

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday criticised the Uttar Pradesh government over a notice issued to Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati, seeking an explanation for his use of the title of Shankaracharya.

Addressing a press conference, Congress media and publicity department head Pawan Khera questioned whether any government authority had the right to challenge the status of a Hindu seer.

Mr. Khera said the action marked an unprecedented intrusion into religious traditions and accused the BJP of double standards. "Those who once asked Muslims – *kaagaz dikhao* [show papers] – are now asking the same of Hinduism's top seer," the Congress leader said.

Mr. Khera alleged that the action followed the seer's criticism of the Narendra Modi government on issues such as cow slaughter, the consecration of the Ram temple at Ayodhya prematurely and the alleged mismanagement of the Kumbh Mela.

LS attendance to be marked only from members' seats: Birla

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday said that the attendance of Members of Parliament will now be recorded only when they are physically present inside the House at their designated seats. The new rule will come into effect from the upcoming Budget Session.

Mr. Birla says that the move would enhance accountability and transparency. Earlier, MPs were allowed to mark their attendance from outside the House chamber within the Parliament premises.

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INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

Letter No.- 411, Date: 17.01.2026

NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (NIFB)
E-Procurement Notice No. BP-I/27/2025-26 Dt.17.01.2026

1. Nature of Work : Civil, P.H. & Electrical Works
2. Total No. of Works : 04 Nos.
3. Value of Works : From Rs.66.49 Lakhs to 805.80 Lakhs.
4. Bid Security : As per NIT
5. Class of Contractor : As per NIT.
6. Period of Completion : 06 (Six) to 15 (Fifteen) Months.
7. Other details as follows :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Bid online		Date, Time & Place of Opening of Tender
		From	To	
Superintending Engineer, OTDC Ltd., Bhubaneswar.	BP-I/27/ 2025-26 Dt.17.01.2026	27.01.2026	10.02.2026	11.30 Hours of Dt.11.02.2026 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, OTDC Ltd., Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website: **www.etenderodisha.gov.in**

CAD-3066 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, O.T.D.C., Ltd., BBSR.

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Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India
Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram -11
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No.NCESS/P&GA/1224/16/2025 Date:20.01.2026

RECRUITMENT OF JUNIOR TECHNICIAN (Three Posts)

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Sd/- Head Administration(i/c)

Govt. of Rajasthan
Directorate Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
Women & Child Development Department
2 Jalpath, Gandhi Nagar, Rajasthan, Jaipur
Phone No: 0141-2713639 website: www.wcd.rajasthan.gov.in

NIB No. F.6(855)ICDS/STORE/Medicine Kit/2025-26/2931 Dated: 8-1-26

e-Tender NOTICE
No. 13/2025-26

e-Bid is invited from Manufacturer for procurement of Medicine Kit for Anganwadi Centers upto 04.00 PM on 28.01.2026 Details may be seen in the Bidding Document on our website **www.wcd.rajasthan.gov.in and http://sppp.raj.nic.in** Bid form may be seen and downloaded from website **eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** This bid shall be processed through e-procurement portal of Govt. of Rajasthan. Estimated value of the procurement is Rs. 945.00 Lac.

NIB No. ICD2526A1187
UBN No. ICD2526GLOB01630
DIPR/C/610/2026

Director,
Integrated Child Development Services

DR. BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR LAW UNIVERSITY
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JDA Institutional Scheme, Bagru, Tehsil - Sanganer, Distt. Jaipur-303007

F. No. :- F2(140)GAD/ALU/2025-26/4838 Date :- 13/01/2026

ई-बोली आमंत्रण सूचना

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से पंजीकृत एवं मान्यता प्राप्त सेवा प्रदाता संस्था/एजेन्सी से मैनपावर सेवाऐं (अनुमानित लागत राशि रूपये 1,80,00,000 एक वर्ष के लिए) उपलब्ध करवाने हेतु ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट माध्यम से ऑनलाईन बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली से संबंधित विवरण/शर्तें वेबसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **http://www.alujaipur.ac.in** पर देखी जा सकती है तथा बोली प्रपत्र इन्हीं वेबसाईट से नियत तिथि से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।

UBN No. :- ALU2526SLOB00010
राज.संवाद/सी/25/17851

कुलसचिव

INBRIEF

Kisan Sabha flags draft Seeds Bill, says it is unacceptable

The provisions of the draft Seeds Bill undermine the role of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other public sector research institutions and allow monopoly of the private sector over the seed sector, the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) said in its response to the Union Agriculture Ministry on the draft Seeds Bill. The AIKS asked the government to consult farmers' organisations, state governments, and scientific communities engaged in the seed sector. "Any law on seeds should protect the basic rights of the farmers to grow, sow, re-sow, save, use, exchange, share or sell seeds. This should be protected as an inalienable right," AIKS said.

High-level State govt. panel to probe Indore water tragedy

The Madhya Pradesh government has formed a high-level investigation committee to probe the diarrhoea outbreak which has claimed several lives in Indore's Bhagirathpura area due to contaminated drinking water supplied by the Indore Municipal Corporation. In a statement, the Madhya Pradesh government said the State-level committee has been constituted to conduct a detailed review of the events surrounding contaminated water supply in the city, and to present its conclusions, suggestions, and recommendations. The panel will submit its report to the government within a month.

'Serious' about holding dog feeders liable, says SC

Bench makes observation after advocate Prashant Bhushan says he thought the earlier remark on fixing accountability on dog feeders was made 'sarcastically' and that it could be 'misinterpreted'

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it was "serious" about holding dog feeders accountable for dog bites, even as animal welfare groups cautioned that the court's oral observations were leading to "unfortunate" repercussions, including reported attacks on feeders.

A Bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Sandeep Mehta and Justice N.V. Anjaria made the observation after advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for an intervener, submitted that he had been under the impression that the Bench's earlier remark on fixing accountability on dog feeders was made "sarcastically" and could therefore be "misinterpreted".

Justice Vikram Nath, who is heading the Bench, says the judges are restraining themselves from commenting further. K. MURALI KUMAR

Not in jest: judge

Justice Nath, however, clarified that the observation was not made in jest. "Although we do not know what we will do in this matter, the comment was not made sarcastically but on a serious note. It was made in the course of a dialogue during the hearing," he said.

This prompted Mr. Bhushan to apprise the court that while oral exchanges between judges and lawyers were commonplace, certain adverse remarks could have tangible repercussions on the ground. He pointed out that individuals were relying on such oral observations to justify attacks on dog feeders.

"Sometimes, the remarks of the court could lead to unfortunate consequences. Feeders are being beaten up, and people are taking refuge under these remarks," he told the Bench.

At this point, Justice Mehta further clarified that the oral remarks were made as part of a dialogue with counsel. "These remarks were made during oral arguments, in the course of a dialogue with a counsel. It does not make any difference," he said.

Senior advocate Raju Ramachandran then intervened to point out that both the Bench and the Bar had a duty to exercise restraint, given the wide publicity of the proceedings. "As a senior member of the Bar, I wish to say that these proceedings are televised. There is a duty on both the Bar and the Bench to be circumspect," he said.

'We are restrained'

Acknowledging the need for caution, Justice Nath, who was heading the Bench, said: "We are restraining ourselves from making comments which would otherwise have been made in this matter."

Earlier, the court had indicated that it was inclined to impose "heavy compensation" on States for every dog bite incident while also fixing accountability on dog feeders in cases where attacks result in serious or "lifelong" consequences.

The judges had also orally remarked that those feeding such stray canines ought to assume responsibility by keeping the animals within their homes or premises. The Bench concluded hearing submissions from the petitioners on Tuesday and posted the matter for further hearing on January 28.

Ex-CAPF officials file contempt plea in SC over IPS deputation

In 2025, SC sought a two-year cut in IPS deputation up to IG rank and a review of cadre, service rules

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Retired Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) officers have filed a contempt petition in the Supreme Court against the Union Home Secretary following the non-implementation of the court's 2025 ruling to "progressively reduce" the deputation of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers in the Senior Administrative Grade or up to the rank of Inspector-General (IG) in CAPFs.

The petition has been filed against Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan by four retired officials – Mahender Singh Deo, Radha Mohan Meena, Vikesh Kumar and Sanjay Prakash, the original petitioner in the case. The petitions were filed on December 3, 6, and 9.

Deputation cut

On May 23, 2025, the Supreme Court ruled that Group A Executive Cadre officers of CAPFs are Organised Group A Services (OGAS) for all purposes. Besides progressively reducing the IPS deputation in CAPFs up to the level of IGs in the next two years, the court asked for time-bound review of cadre and service rules in six months.

The Union Home Ministry, the cadre-controlling authority of both the CAPFs and the IPS, challenged the judgment but on October 28, 2025, the top court dismissed the review petition, making the ruling final. On December 26, the Ministry wrote to the Directors General of all CAPFs – the Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, Indo Tibetan Border Police, Central Industrial Security Force and the Assam Rifles – to undertake a comprehensive review of Group A cadres and submit detailed proposals to the Ministry.

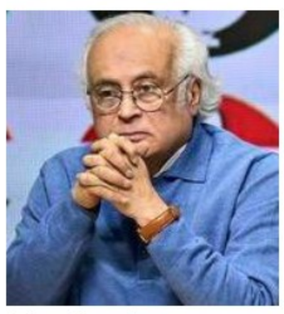
Cadre review is done every five years to estimate future human resources requirements, plan recruitment to avoid future promotional blocks, and to harmonise the functional needs with the legitimate career expectations of its members. The last cadre review of CAPFs was done in 2016.

Congress urges Centre to ensure reservation in private institutions under Article 15(5)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday said that any regulator for higher education must be mandated to oversee the implementation of Article 15(5) of the Constitution, which empowers the state to provide reservation for the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in private educational institutions.

Referring to the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, which seeks to establish a single regulator for higher education and was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 15, 2025, before being referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said such a body must have a clear mandate to ensure the implementation of Article 15(5).



Jairam Ramesh

"Any such regulator should be mandated to oversee the implementation of Article 15(5) of the Constitution, which came into effect exactly 20 years ago today," he said.

Full implementation

He urged the Centre to fully implement Article 15(5) on the 20th anniversary of its enactment through the 93rd Constitutional Amendment by the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government.

Calling it a historic moment, Mr. Ramesh said the amendment enabled the introduction of a 27% reservation for OBC students in Centrally funded higher education institutions (HEIs), including the IITs, IIMs, Central Universities, and NITs. "Since then, lakhs of students from the OBC communities have availed of this reservation, bringing economic and social mobility to millions," he said.

Article 15(5) also permits the government to mandate reservation for SC, ST and OBC students in private higher education institutions, Mr. Ramesh said, noting that its validity was upheld by the Supreme Court in the *Pramati Educational and Cultural Trust vs Union of India* judgment on May 6, 2014.

DGCA directs airline operators to appoint a 'chief of flight safety'

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

With accident investigations consistently pointing to recurring causal factors and systemic deficiencies within aviation operations, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed airline operators to appoint a 'chief of flight safety' to ensure implementation of safety protocols.

In a bid to prevent accidents or incidents, the aviation regulator asked the operators to set up a dedicated "flight safety department" with an adequate number of competent personnel for promoting flight safety and implementing accident/incident prevention programme.

In addition, the operators shall nominate a "deputy chief of flight safety". "It shall be ensured that if chief of flight safety is a pilot, the deputy chief shall be an engineer and vice-versa," the DGCA said.

The DGCA says accident investigations have highlighted recurring causal factors and systemic deficiencies. FILE PHOTO

Systemic deficiencies

Explaining the necessity for creating such posts, the DGCA said accident investigations had consistently highlighted recurring causal factors and systemic deficiencies within aviation operations.

While such investigations remained valuable for incremental improvements, the scope for significant safety enhancement through reactive measures alone was limited.

With the effective implementation of a safety management system (SMS), the aviation industry had shifted from a reactive approach to a proactive approach which helped in identification of safety concerns before they escalated into incidents or accidents.

It was essential to integrate safety management system with the safety awareness and accident/incident prevention programmes, which established a structured framework for continuous monitoring, evaluation, and improvement of operational practices. "To ensure the highest levels of safety in aircraft operations, it is imperative that every operator implement such a programme," the DGCA said. The DGCA said the instructions would apply to all operators engaged in scheduled air transport services/cargo services/ non-scheduled air transport services.

Calling for building safety culture in the aviation sector, the regulator said operators should conduct internal safety audit of different divisions such as operations, maintenance, ground support among others.

"Flight and duty time limitations shall be laid down for the operating crew to ensure that the crew are not fatigued which may affect safety of operations," the DGCA said.

IndiGo to continue 10% flight cuts till March-end

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

IndiGo will continue to face a 10% reduction in its flights, amounting to nearly 200 fewer services, until the end of the winter season in late March, according to government officials.

The airline has informed the government that it expects to be able to implement the revised pilot norms from February 10, when the special exemption granted to it for rules that came into effect on November 1, 2025, expires.

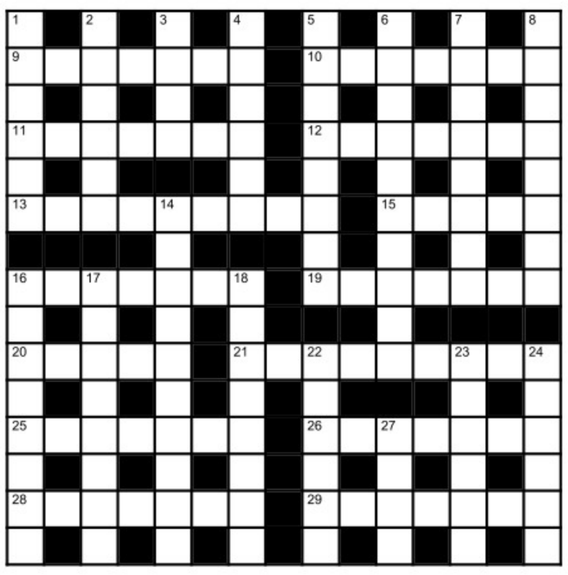
The relaxation was granted after the airline saw over 5,000 flight cancellations in November and early December 2025 due to planning gaps and overstretching of its crew, for which the Directorate General of Civil Aviation imposed a ₹22 crore penalty last week.

TH CROSSWORD + 14696

(set by Arden)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Crucify people in the wrong (7)
10 Empty vessel interrupting a game (7)
11 Part of steel bonnet to reclaim honour (7)
12 Protected circle giving the glad eye (7)
13 The devil gets credit — is he looking after the church affairs? (9)
15 Game on a flat dry ground (5)
16 First of all, can you prevent the commotion over a Greek dialect? (7)
19 Serious listener's abode (7)
20 Ridicule the occasional calumny in Times (5)
21 Overwhelmed as association lets us in (9)
25 Containers for clubs' bearers, perhaps (7)
26 Is he against work? That's the question (7)
28 Blimp goes abroad — Paris gets a greeting (7)
29 Advance permits arranged (7)

Down

1 Afterwards put in a small capital (6)
2 Satirical contents — bird song, nice? (6)
3 "Press one for superb" — at the end of it all, one is European (4)
4 Declare it's time to stop a match (6)
5 Cry in the past about grandeur (8)
6 Booze on the house for a Bohemian (4,6)
7 Mention about accepting a label (8)
8 Show off lifted dress label right inside (8)
14 Visual alarm — activate it and I hit gold! (5,5)
16 A whale perhaps can protect an alien one (8)
17 Rifles — please store below (8)
18 Patterns used in the arm of a church (8)
22 Foreign state having eat set up (6)
23 Bad result from Northern Ireland (6)
24 Take care to disrobe — fancy sport? (6)
27 Story teller's keeping quiet about the bishop of Rome (4)

SUDOKU

				1				
		6	3		5		2	
	8	5			6			
6			5			2		1
8			7		2			9
9		4			1			7
			1			7	4	
	7		8		4	5		
				2				

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C	L	O	T	H	E		A	L	C	A	P	O	N	E
R		V		O				E		N		P		Y
O	D	E	S	S	A		B	A	R	O	N	A	G	E
W		R		P		D		D		R		Q		L
B	E	R	L	I	N	E	R		J	E	J	U	N	E
A		I		T		L		C		X		E		T
I	N	D	I	A	N	A	P	O	L	I	S			
T		E		L		Y		M		A		L		A
			B	I	R	E	F	R	I	N	G	E	N	T
S		T		S		D		A		E		S		H
T	E	A	B	A	G		A	D	O	R	A	B	L	E
R		N		T		F		E		V		I		I
O	R	D	A	I	N	E	D		M	O	R	A	S	S
L		E		O		A				S		N		T
L	A	M	I	N	A	T	E		K	A	N	S	A	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	8	4	2	5	9	6	1
9	6	4	8	1	7	2	3	5
2	1	5	9	3	6	4	7	8
8	9	1	7	6	4	3	5	2
4	2	6	3	5	8	1	9	7
7	5	3	1	9	2	8	4	6
1	8	9	5	7	3	6	2	4
5	3	2	6	4	1	7	8	9
6	4	7	2	8	9	5	1	3

FAITH

Inner mind defines life

Knowledge and wealth may elevate stature, but their brilliance fades. Lasting greatness arises from virtue and noble character. Humility, as Tiruvalluvar teaches (*Endrum Perumai* – Kural 978), shapes true character: great minds are humble; lesser minds dwell on achievements. Our strength is defined by the state of our inner mind, not external factors.

A warrior proves valour on the battlefield and earns fame; the learned earn through intelligence. But a person of character gains lasting respect through straightforwardness, love, and compassion. Such noble souls remain humble in the face of success. In any situation, good people face challenges with courage and rise above with grace. Ultimately, the strength of mind and virtue define a well-lived life. Thanneerpalli Sri Krishnan Swamy said a sick person prays to God for his recovery, a poor person prays for wealth, and an unmarried person may pray for a virtuous spouse. But a person who lacks self-realisation doesn't even understand that he lacks it, doesn't repent, or pray to God to provide the means for self-realisation.

Awareness of this need is the first step to true greatness. By seeking self-realisation and nurturing humility and compassion, one begins a journey towards a life of genuine fulfilment and lasting inner strength. The path to divinity is illuminated by the guidance and grace of a noble Acharya. A true Acharya is one who has studied the Sastras, embodies their teachings, and selflessly imparts that wisdom. Lord Krishna teaches in the Srimad Bhagavad Gita that one's actions should align with the Sastras, which stand as the authority on what is to be done or avoided.

INBRIEF

PhonePe Gets SEBI nod for IPO, to file updated DRHP

PhonePe has received SEBI approval for its IPO, and will be filing its Updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus (UDRHP) soon, setting the stage for India's most anticipated fintech IPO in the near horizon, as per sources. The IPO will be an Offer For Sale by existing shareholders. The company will not be raising any additional primary capital in the IPO, the sources said. PhonePe leads India's digital payments market with over 45% market share in UPI transactions. PTI

Jio BlackRock AMC attracts 10 lakh investors, 18% first-timers

Jio BlackRock Asset Management, which launched its services in May, has built an investor base of 10 lakh, with nearly 18% comprising first-time mutual fund investors, its MD and CEO Sid Swaminathan said on Tuesday. The JV between Jio Financial Services and BlackRock has also seen strong participation from investors beyond major metros, with 40% of its retail investors coming from B-30 cities, significantly higher than the industry average of 28%. PTI

Arohan plans to hit capital market with ₹1,500 cr. IPO

NBFC-MFI Arohan Financial Services plans to hit the capital market during the middle of next financial year with an IPO of ₹1,500 crore, managing director Manoj Kumar Nambiar said. The company has already appointed merchant bankers and hopes to file the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with capital markets regulator SEBI in the next two months, he said. Mr. Nambiar said there will be no stake sale by the promoters. PTI

Will ensure U.S. govt. officials visit India regularly: envoy Gor

Senator Daines concludes visit to persuade leaders to include 'favourable' pulse provisions in future FTA, pursue Trump administration's interests

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Beyond borders: Piyush Goyal with U.S. Senator Steve Daines and U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor during a meeting. PTI

U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Tuesday said he would ensure that senior officials of the U.S. Government regularly travelled to India, even as U.S. Senator Steve Daines concluded a two-day visit to India, during which he tried to persuade the Indian side to include "favourable" pulse crop provisions in a future trade deal.

During his visit, Mr. Daines met Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, members of parliament, and U.S. and Indian business leaders.

"I came to India to reaffirm our two countries' shared values and strategic partnership and to advocate on behalf of Montana's pulse crop farmers," Mr. Daines said in a press statement.

"I appreciated Minister Goyal for listening to our farmers' concerns and will continue to work with President Trump to press this important priority."

A release by the U.S. embassy in New Delhi added that Mr. Daines "pursued interests of the Trump Administration as well as the people of Montana, including urging favourable pulse crop provisions in any future trade agreements between the United States and India".

The issue of allowing agricultural imports has been a sensitive one for India, which has resisted the inclusion of sensitive agricultural products in any free trade agreement it has signed so far. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal has confirmed that sensitive agricultural issues would be excluded from the upcoming India-EU free trade agreement as well.

The U.S., however, is a different matter as even Indian Government officials have conceded that the bigger the economy we are dealing with, the larger the concessions we would have to give. However, agriculture and dairy remain "big red lines" for India, as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in June 2025.

Following his meeting with Mr. Daines, Mr. Goyal took to X to say that Mr. Gor, Mr. Daines and he had had a "productive exchange of views on our bilateral relationship".

"As we work to take the partnership between our two nations to the next level in cooperation, I will ensure that senior government officials will regularly travel to India," Mr. Gor said.

"As a key member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with extensive experience in Asia, Senator Daines' meetings with official and private sector stakeholders in New Delhi were instrumental in advancing our bilateral relationship," he added.

Tight leash: The index has been on a quiet streak for more than 3 months with either an increase or a decline below 1%. REUTERS

Nifty tanks 1.38%, its worst fall in 8 months

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The benchmark Nifty50 declined 1.38% – its lowest in more than eight months – to 25,232 points, on a broad-based crash in small and midcap indices and increasing global uncertainties, on Tuesday. BSE Sensex, too, fell 1.28% to 82,180.47 points.

Nifty50 opened at 25,850 and hit the day's high at the open at 25,858, after which it tumbled to the day's low at 25,171.35 before settling at the day's close. The index has been on a quiet streak for more than three months with either an increase or a decline below 1%. In this context, the current downward movement becomes important.

Small cap 100 and Midcap 100 indices had their worst days in eight months, dipping nearly 2.8% and 2.4% each.

"Market breadth remained negative for eight consecutive sessions, as the BSE advance-decline ratio dropped sharply to 0.80, the lowest reading in nine months, signalling persistent selling across the mid and small-cap segments," said Nandish Shah, deputy vice president, HDFC Securities.

Weak earnings

The overall decline in the market comes in the backdrop of weak earnings of companies that have announced their third quarter results in the current fiscal. Moreover, the uncertainty has increased due to fears around U.S. acquisition of Greenland, and the suspension of EU-U.S. trade deal over the issue.

The increasing uncertainty could be gauged by the rally in safe haven assets like gold and silver.

"As long as the market is trading below 25,300 in the Nifty and 82,300 for Sensex, a weak sentiment is likely to continue. On the lower side, the market could slip to 25,100-25,000/82,000-81,700.

On the flip side, above 25,300/82,300, a pullback move could take the market to 25,400-25,435/82,500-82,800," said Shrikant Chouhan, head of Equity Research at Kotak Securities.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,180	-1.28
US Dollar	90.97	-0.07
Gold	1,53,200	3.44
Brent oil	64.96	1.27

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2055.10	-79.50
Adani Ports	1367.60	-35.40
Apollo Hosp	6912.50	-220.50
Asian Paints	2675.60	-78.40
Axis Bank	1293.50	-14.00
Bajaj Auto	9180.00	-249.50
Bajaj Finserv	1958.70	-59.10
Bajaj Finance	933.20	-36.25
Bharat Elec	409.35	-3.45
Bharti Airtel	1996.00	-14.00
Cipla	1378.40	-13.90
Coal India	415.30	-14.85
Dr Reddys Lab	1166.70	-0.50
Eicher Motors	7173.50	-150.00
Eternal Ltd.	269.60	-11.75
Grasim Ind	2713.60	-66.40
HCL Tech	1687.30	-29.50
HDFC Bank	931.20	3.30
HDFC Life	732.10	-4.70
Hindalco	928.10	-11.85
Hind Unilever	2379.10	-34.80
ICICI Bank	1375.80	-4.80
IntGlobeAvi	4790.00	-151.50
Infosys	1658.90	-22.30
ITC	326.30	-6.90
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	265.50	-10.15
JSW Steel	1160.00	-24.10
Kotak Bank	423.80	-3.10
L&T	3810.50	-59.30
M&M	3557.50	-99.90
Maruti Suzuki	15879.00	-297.00
Max Healthcare	992.90	-20.70
NestleIndia	1295.70	-19.90
NTPC	338.75	-4.60
ONGC	240.39	-2.72
PowerGrid Corp	254.05	-3.60
Reliance Ind	1394.00	-19.60
SBI Life	2049.10	-24.60
State Bank	1036.40	-2.00
Shriram Finance Ltd.	987.50	-22.85
Sun Pharma	1613.80	-61.60
TataConsumerProduct	1185.00	4.80
Tata Steel	183.56	-4.71
TCS	3102.30	-61.30
Tech Mahindra	1678.50	-39.80
Titan	4075.50	-68.60
Tata Motors PV	337.85	-6.15
Trent Ltd.	3836.10	-109.50
UltraTech Cement	12059.00	-238.00
Wipro	239.90	-6.05

ITC Hotels Q3 net rises 9.6%

ITC Hotels on Tuesday reported a 9.64% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹236.83 crore for the third quarter ended December on higher revenue. It had earned a net profit of ₹216 crore a year ago. PTI

In Dec., core sectors grew at 4-month high

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Coal sector grew at 3.6%.

Growth in the eight core industries of the economy quickened to a four-month high of 3.7% in December on a bounce-back in electricity and coal sectors, official data showed.

The December update of the Index of Eight Core Industries showed growth in December was, however, slower than the 5.1% logged a year earlier.

Growth in the electricity sector came in at a nine-month high of 5.3% in December, snapping two months of consecutive contractions. This was, however, slower than the 6.2% growth the sector saw in December 2024.

The coal sector saw growth accelerate to a four-month high of 3.6% in December 2025.

The steel sector saw growth hasten to 6.85% from 6.7% in November and 7.3% in December 2024. The cement sector saw growth coming in at 13.5% in December 2025, albeit slower than 14.6% seen in November. However, December's growth came on a high base of 10.3% in December 2024.

Lodha adds ₹1 lakh cr. to data centre plan

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Abhishek Lodha

Lodha Developers Ltd. will invest an additional ₹1 lakh crore in a data centre park in Maharashtra.

On January 19, Abhishek Lodha, MD and CEO of Lodha Developers, signed a MoU with the Government of Maharashtra committing ₹1 lakh crore in the backdrop of World Economic Forum at Davos.

Four months ago, the firm signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) of ₹30,000 crore with the Maharashtra government to develop the data centre park.

With a total investment of ₹1.3 lakh crore in an about 2.5 GW data centre, it is slated to be the largest in India, Lodha said.

Amazon had already acquired a land parcel for a data centre and made arrangements for power requirements for the next 15 years. Singapore-based STT Global Data Centres had also acquired a land parcel in the park.

APPOINTMENT

नालको NALCO
National Aluminium Company Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Nalco Bhawan, Nayapalli,
Bhubaneswar - 751 013, Odisha
CIN : L27203OR1981GOI000920
A NAVRATNA COMPANY

Advt. No.10260105 Date : 07/01/2026

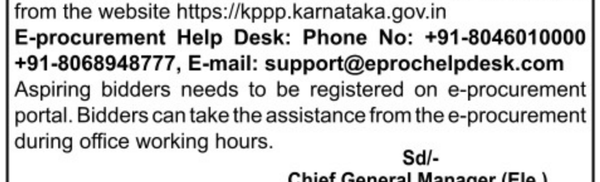
NALCO IS LOOKING FOR COMMITTED, PROMISING AND RESULT ORIENTED PROFESSIONALS

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Leading Navratna PSU is looking for committed, promising and result oriented professionals in the following grades of various disciplines for its production units / offices in different locations.

Name of the Post /Grade	No. of Posts
Manager (Civil)/E03	02
Manager (Mechanical) /E03	12
Manager (Electrical) /E03	08
Manager (Chemical) /E03	20
Manager (E&I) /E03	06

Interested candidates may visit the Career Section of Company's website at www.nalcoindia.com for further details.

Chief General Manager (HR)-R&P



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CORRIGENDUM

The calendar of events published in the newspapers Kannada Prabha and The Hindu on 05.01.2026 for the work of **"Providing Electrical infrastructure to the regularized IP sets by extending 11 KV lines, Erection of 25 KVA Star 1 (4 Star) rated Distribution Transformers and Extension of LT line on Partial Turnkey basis (25 KVA Distribution Transformer will be supplied by BESCOM) under item wise fixed price contract on PERCENTAGE QUOTING BASIS in BESCOM"** with the tender enquiry no's **BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT740 to BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT779 (40 No's)** is hereby modified as under:
Availability of Bid documents: 21.01.2026. **Last date for submission of bid Queries:** 31.01.2026 before 17:00 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting:** 02.02.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs. **Venue of Pre-Bid meeting:** Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, Belaku Bhavana, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R Circle, Bengaluru- 560 001. **Last date & Time for bid submission:** 20.02.2026 @ 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Technical Bids:** 21.02.2026 @ 15:15 Hrs.
The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the e-procurement portal from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
E-procurement Help Desk: Phone No: +91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com
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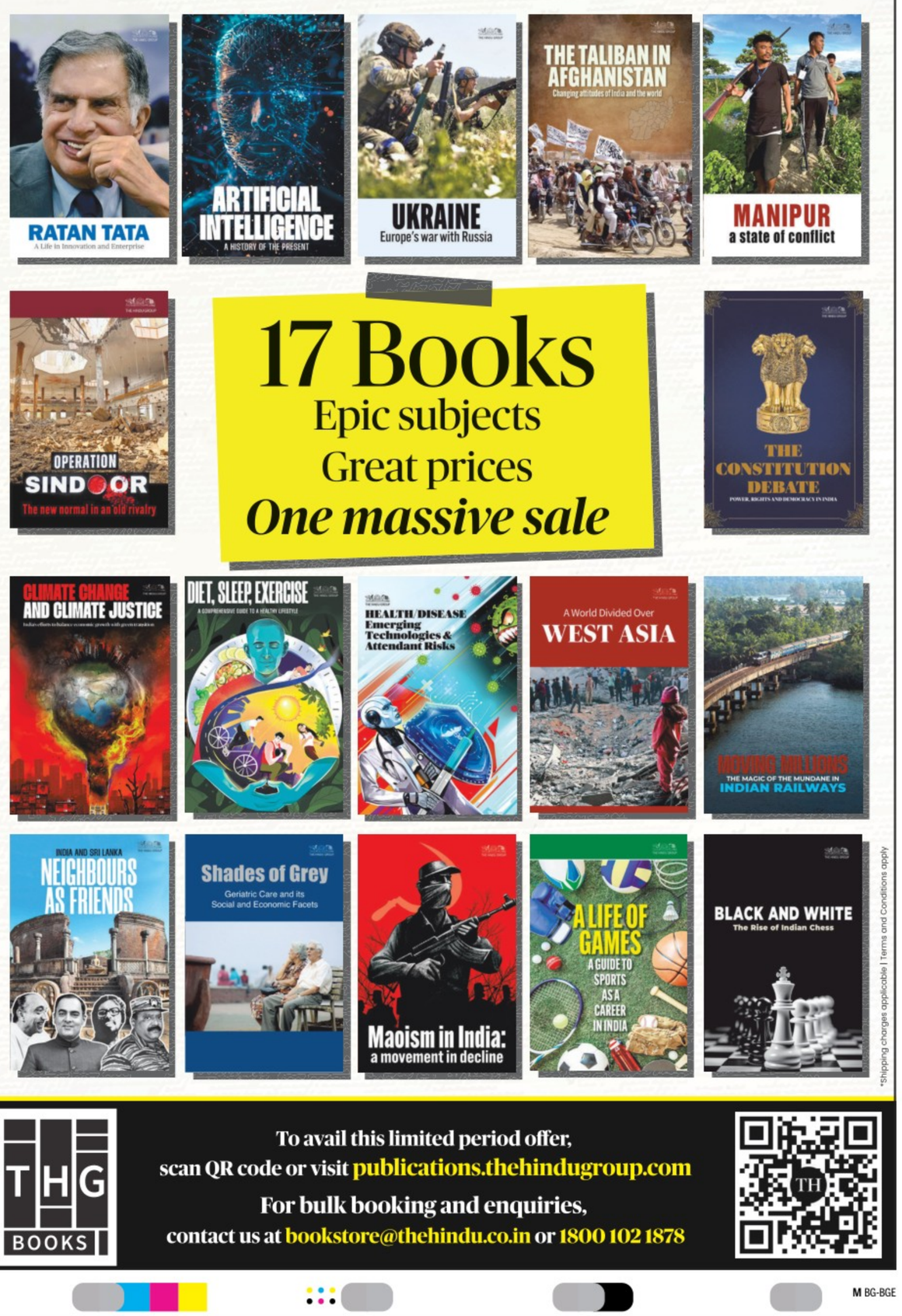
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DAVOS

EU vows 'unflinching' response to Trump's threats over Greenland

AP

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen vowed on Tuesday an "unflinching" response to Donald Trump's threats over Greenland. In a speech to the World Economic Forum, she warned that Mr. Trump risked plunging U.S. ties with the European Union into a "downward spiral". AFP

KANO

Gunmen abduct over 150 Christian worshippers in Nigeria, says clergy

REUTERS

Armed gangs kidnapped at least 163 Christian worshippers after storming two churches in Nigeria's northern Kaduna State on Sunday, a clergy member said. Gangs frequently carry out mass kidnappings for ransom. Sunday's attacks are the latest in a wave of kidnappings targeting both Christians and Muslims in Nigeria. AFP

LONDON

U.K. approves 'contentious' plan for largest Chinese embassy in Europe

AP

Britain's government gave approval on Tuesday for China to build its largest embassy in Europe in London, eight years after the process began, hoping to improve ties with Beijing despite warnings from British and U.S. politicians that it could be used as a base for spying. REUTERS

JERUSALEM

Israel pulls down headquarters of UN agency for Palestinian refugees

REUTERS

Israel began demolitions at the headquarters of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees in east Jerusalem on Tuesday, in what the organisation called an "unprecedented attack". Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir posted a video standing in front of the compound as a bulldozer began to tear it down. AFP

'I am here to calm the waters,' U.S. Speaker Johnson to U.K. lawmakers

The Republican dwelt on current American right-wing themes of Western civilisation being at risk and the need for civilisational pride and strong borders in the West; he also delivered a veiled criticism of liberal and leftist thought

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

In the chair: U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson addresses MPs in the House of Commons alongside Speakers Lord McFall (left) and Lindsay Hoyle in Westminster, Britain on Tuesday. REUTERS

The Speaker of U.S House of Representatives, Mike Johnson, told British lawmakers in London that he was here to "calm the waters", following recent events between the U.S. and its European allies, including the U.K.

Britain and seven other European countries have been unnerved and searching for a response to U.S. President Donald Trump's Saturday announcement of tariffs on them, the latest move by the President to pressure Europeans into transferring the semi-autonomous Danish territory of Greenland to the U.S.

"We didn't know how the events would develop over the last few days, but I told the President that I felt that my mission here today was to encourage our friends and help to calm the waters, so to speak, and I hope to do so," Mr. Johnson told members of the House of Commons and Lords in Westminster on Tuesday. The U.S. Speaker's interaction was planned in October last year, to commemorate the 250th year of America's independence from Britain.

During his remarks, Mr. Johnson supported U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's address to the nation on Monday, in which the Prime Minister had suggested that the U.S. and the U.K. were close allies and working issues out. Mr. Starmer had, however, strongly criticised the use of tariffs on allies and acknowledged differences with Washington on the question of Greenland's sovereignty.

"I thought that was exactly the right message in the right tone... we've always been able to work through our differences calmly as friends," Mr. Johnson said. "I want to assure you this morning that that is still the case," he added.

Mr. Johnson repeated Mr. Trump's claims that Russia and China were threats in the Arctic.

"Clearly, President Trump is taking seriously the modern and dynamic threats that China and Russia pose to our global security, especially in focus the last few days as it relates to the Arctic," he said. While allies could debate how best to counter these threats, the threats were ignored at their own peril, Mr. Johnson said.

European countries and the U.S. are at odds over the magnitude and imminence of the threat posed by China and Russia in the Arctic, especially with regard to Greenland.

With multiple references to conservative leaders, such as former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and U.K. Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and Winston Churchill, Mr. Johnson dwelt on current American right-wing themes of Western civilisation being at risk and the need for civilisational pride – and strong borders – in the West. Mr. Johnson, a Republican, also delivered a veiled criticism of liberal and leftist thought.

"Our brightest minds are too often taught to view our history only through the lens of its sins," he said. "We have faced this in America, just as you have here, a truly menacing scepticism towards history and our national institutions." Mr. Johnson met with Mr. Starmer and House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle as part of his visit.

Trump slams U.K.'s move to hand over Chagos Islands

Associated Press
LONDON

Ground zero: An aerial view of the Diego Garcia island. Thousands of Chagos islanders were evicted to make way for the U.S. base. AP

A startled British government on Tuesday defended its decision to hand sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, after U.S. President Donald Trump attacked the plan, which his administration had previously supported.

Mr. Trump said that relinquishing the remote Indian Ocean archipelago, home to a strategically important American naval and bomber base, was an act of "stupidity" that shows why he needs to take over Greenland.

"Shockingly, our brilliant NATO Ally, the United Kingdom, is currently planning to give away the Island of Diego Garcia, the site of a vital U.S. Military Base, to Mauritius, and to do so FOR NO REASON WHATSOEVER," he said in a post on his social media platform Truth Social. "There is no doubt that China and Russia have noticed this act of total weakness."

"The U.K. giving away extremely important land is an act of GREAT STUPIDITY, and is another in a very long line of National Security reasons why Greenland has to be acquired," Mr. Trump said.

99-year lease

The United Kingdom and Mauritius signed a deal in May 2025 to give Mauritius sovereignty over the Chagos Islands after two centuries under British control, though the U.K. will lease back Diego Garcia where the U.S. base is located, for at least 99 years.

The U.S. government welcomed the agreement at the time, saying it "secures the long-term, stable, and effective operation of the joint U.S.-U.K. military facility at Diego Garcia."

In recent years, the United Nations and its top court have urged Britain to return the islands to Mauritius, and the British government says it's acting to protect the security of the base from international legal challenge.

But the deal has met strong opposition from British opposition parties, which say that giving up the islands puts them at risk of interference by China and Russia.

The U.K. kept control of the Chagos Islands after Mauritius gained independence from Britain in the 1960s. But it evicted thousands of Chagos islanders, who have since mounted a series of legal claims for compensation in British courts. Over 10,000 displaced Chagossians and their descendants now live primarily in Britain, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

With threats to take over Greenland, Trump turns NATO against NATO

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

Trump's repeated statements have thrown transatlantic cooperation into disarray.

For Europe, it was first a surprise and then a shock. During his first term, Donald Trump had shown interest in buying Greenland, an autonomous Arctic island that's part of Denmark. When Mr. Trump, after returning to the White House last year, said, "We are going to have Greenland one way or the other", many thought he was not serious.

But after the January 3 U.S. attack on Venezuela, Mr. Trump escalated his claims over Greenland. Mr. Trump's repeated statements have thrown transatlantic cooperation into disarray. Tensions reached a new peak on January 17, when Mr. Trump imposed a 10% tariff on eight European countries, including Denmark, Germany, France and the U.K.

Threat from within

While there were tensions in transatlantic relations in the past, what makes the current crisis more severe is that it was triggered by a push from the U.S., a country that has been Europe's primary security guarantor since the end of the Second World War, to take control of a European territory.

To place the crisis in context: Greenland is an autonomous territory of Denmark, which is one of the founding members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). NATO is built on the principle of collective defence. This framework functioned effectively during the Cold War as a deterrent against the Soviet Union. But here, the threat to Denmark's sovereignty does not come from outside the alliance, but from within it – from NATO's most powerful member, the U.S.

Greenland's location between North America and the Arctic makes it strategically placed for early warning systems in the event of missile attacks, and for monitoring vessels in the region. The island also has vast untapped resources, especially rare earths.

The U.S. has a military base on the island, called Pituffik, where more than 100 personnel are permanently stationed. On Tuesday, Mr. Trump shared a generated image of himself placing an American flag in Greenland beside a board that read, "Greenland: US territory; Est. 2026".

For decades, Europe has been heavily dependent on the U.S. for security. The U.S. accounts for roughly two-thirds of NATO's military spending, and provides most of the alliance's missile defence, nuclear umbrella (along with Britain and France) and long-range precision capabilities. The Supreme Allied Commander Europe, the highest military commander in NATO, is always an American General, and many European militaries are interoperable with U.S. systems by design. The U.S. operates at least 37 military bases in Europe, hosting roughly 80,000 soldiers.

Most European countries have pledged to increase defence spending, but it will take years before they build the capacity to stand on their own. In the meantime, they need the U.S. and NATO for security. That dependency has only deepened since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Europe has adopted a strong moral and strategic position against Russia, and has, until now, opposed major Ukrainian concessions to Moscow for peace. But if Europe wants Ukraine to continue to fight the invasion, it also needs sustained America's support– what Keir Starmer, the British Prime Minister, described as the "backstop". Mr. Trump, who has always been sceptical of NATO, understands this leverage.

Few good options

Mr. Trump is not interested in a prolonged confrontation with Russia. His immediate strategic focus, per his National Security Strategy, is on the Western Hemisphere and long-term focus is on China. Europe, in his worldview, is steadily losing its strategic relevance.

Mr. Trump says he is committed to NATO. But he wants NATO to help him take over Greenland, violating the sovereignty of a European NATO member. In effect, he is turning NATO against NATO, seeking to extract a major territorial concession from Europe. Unable to secure peace with Russia and increasingly dependent on NATO (U.S.) at a time of war in eastern Europe, European leaders are left with few good options when it comes to dealing with Mr. Trump's threats.

Shah, Oli vying for top post in Nepal elections

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Former Kathmandu mayor Balendra Shah and deposed Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli on Tuesday registered their candidacy from eastern Nepal's Jhapa-5 constituency for the general elections expected to be held on March 5.

Both Mr. Shah, 35, and Mr. Oli, 74, have been projected as prime ministerial candidates by their respective parties.

Russian attack leaves half of Kyiv without heat, power

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

An overnight Russian bombardment left thousands of residential buildings in Kyiv without heating and water in -14C temperatures on Tuesday, when the Ukrainian capital was working to restore utilities damaged in previous attacks.

"Almost half of Kyiv is in blackout right now," Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Mariana Betsa confirmed.

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E- Tenders are invited by Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer of the above Temple for the following work. The e-tender schedule (BOQ) are available from **23.01.2026 to 09.02.2026 upto 5.45 pm** will be downloaded from the website **https://www.tntenders.gov.in** at free of cost. The e-tender documents (BOQ) are to be uploaded through online on (or) before **10.02.2026 upto 3.00 pm.** The received tenders will be opened on **10.02.2026 at 4.00 pm** through online. EMD will be remitted through online. All documents are produced through online in the mode of pdf file. Important documents, Tender documents and correctness documents are downloaded from the website **https://www.tntenders.gov.in** and not publish in Newspaper.

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All the details regarding the Tender invite is available in the **https://www.tntenders.gov.in** Website. Any corrections/ modifications will be intimated only through the above website.
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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Director, Primary Education, Office of the Commissioner, Department of School Education, Bangalore hereby invites tender in two cover system (Technical and Commercial Bids) as per KTPP Act 1999 & Rules 2000 from the registered and eligible companies for **Supply of Uniform cloth material to all the students studying in Class 1 to 10 in all Government Schools of the State for the year 2026-27** through e-procurement portal of GoK **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The prospective bidders willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register with the above mentioned e-procurement portal.

1	Tender Reference No.	**DPI/2025-26/IND0637**
2	Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**	**19/01/2026 onwards**
3	Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting	**28/01/2026 11:00 AM,** at the following venue: Office of Commissioner, School Education, First Floor, New Public Office Building, Nrupatunga road, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru.
4	Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.	**28/01/2026 5:00 PM**
5	Last Date and Time for uploading of e-Tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal	**09/02/2026 5:00 PM**
6	Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids	**10/02/2026 5:10 PM**
7	Date and Time of Sample Submission	**11/02/2026 upto 5:00 PM**
8	Address for Communication	First floor, New public office Building, Nrupatunga road, K R Circle, Bengaluru -560001, Email: primarydpi@gmail.com, Contact: 080-22270072.

- Completed tenders shall be uploaded through e-tendering system by the Tenderers using their User ID on or before the last date & time stipulated.
- In the event of the specified date of opening of Technical Bid (First Cover) being declared a holiday for the purchaser, the technical bid will be opened on the next working day.

Sd/-
Director (Primary Education)

DIPR/CP/JA/5121/2025-26

NOTHING TO WORRY

Suryakumar plays down recent struggles of the Indian spinners

K.R. DEEPAK

We have been batting well against the spinners, and our spinners have been bowling well as far as I'm concerned and in whatever series I've played. There's nothing to worry about this. We'll continue playing cricket the way we've been playing — T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav, when asked about India's recent spin troubles.

JUST IN CASE

Kiwis include Clarke as cover for Bracewell for first three T20Is

K.R. DEEPAK

Coach Rob Walter confirmed that pacer Kristian Clarke, *right*, has been added to the New Zealand squad for the first three T20Is against India. He has been asked to remain with the squad as cover for the injured Michael Bracewell, whose availability for the series opener remains uncertain.

INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

Malajczuk hits fastest century in the ICC under-19 World Cup

GETTY IMAGES

Opener Will Malajczuk smashed both the fastest fifty (23b) and century (51) in the history of ICC u-19 World Cup to steer Australia to an eight-wicket win over Japan in Windhoek on Tuesday. **The scores:** Japan 201/8 in 50 overs (Tani-Kelly 79 n.o.) lost to Australia 204/2 in 29.1 overs (Will Malajczuk 102, Nitesh Samuel 60 n.o.).

AFRICAN SAFARI

Women in Blue to figure in a five-match T20I series in SA

FILE PHOTO: NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Cricket South Africa (CSA) will host India in a five-match T20I series from April 17 to April 27. The first two matches will be played at Durban's Kingsmead on April 17 and 19 before the caravan moves to the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg for the third and fourth T20Is (April 22 and 25). The fifth game will be in Benoni on April 27.

Dress rehearsal for the Men in Blue and Black Caps

With barely three weeks to go for the T20 World Cup, both sides will want to dot their i's and cross their t's in the five-match series; comeback man Kishan to bat at the No. 3 spot for the home team

NZ IN INDIA

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
NAGPUR

This is the season of model examinations. Just as students across the country get ready for their upcoming boards, India and New Zealand have their own mock tests lined up ahead of the all-important T20 World Cup.

The five-match T20I series, starting at the VCA Stadium here on Wednesday, serves as the ideal dress rehearsal for Suryakumar Yadav's Men in Blue and Mitchell Santner's Black Caps.

With the 20-team extravaganza barely three weeks away, both sides – armed with almost full-strength squads – will want to dot their i's and cross their t's, much like studious students revising the chapters.

India head coach Gautam Gambhir, though, will have to make some revisions to his original plan due to injuries to Tilak Varma (sidelined for the first three matches) and Washington Sundar (ruled out of the series).

The home team will field its strongest available XI, which means pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and talismanic all-rounder Hardik Pandya will be seen in action.

Time to grab it: Kishan will be keen to make the most of the opportunity on his return. K.R. DEEPAK

Wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson, after a rather tumultuous period, will want to use these five games to solidify his spot at the top of the order.

When asked who among Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer will take Tilak's spot, Suryakumar confirmed: "Kishan will play at No. 3. He is in our World Cup team. We had picked him first, and hence it is his place and responsibility. The scenario would have been different if we were talking about the No. 4 or No. 5 spots."

For the Kiwis – buoyant after their 'back-up' team's triumph over India in the ODI leg – the challenge will be to ensure that their T20 globetrotters, some of them coming from their franchise league commitments, hit the ground running efficiently and cohesively.

Nagpur 2016-2026

The viral 2016-2026 social media challenge has a curious sporting parallel this week. It was here, on March 15, 2016, that the New Zealand spinners – led by Santner (4-0-11-4) – fashioned a famous victory over India in a T20 World Cup fixture. Almost a decade later, as the teams return to the scene, can the Indian tweakers flip the script?

The Kiwis seem to have made a happy habit of scripting history on Indian shores. After winning the Test series in 2024 and the ODIs recently, can they make it three in three by clinching the T20I series, or even better, the T20 World Cup? They couldn't have asked for a better mock test, for sure.

The teams (from):
India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Axar Patel (Vice-capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Rinku Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ishan Kishan (wk) and Ravi Bishnoi.
New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (Capt.), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway (wk), Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Bevon Jacobs, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Tim Robinson, Ish Sodhi and Kristian Clarke.
The schedule:
Jan. 21, Nagpur.
Jan. 23, Raipur.
Jan. 25, Guwahat.
Jan. 28: Visakhapatnam.
Jan. 31: Thiruvananthapuram.
All matches start at 7 p.m.

Suryakumar reveals he won't change his batting approach

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
NAGPUR

Suryakumar Yadav's recent lean patch has not shaken his self-belief.

The 35-year-old – who will play his 100th T20I when he leads the Indian side in the first T20I against New Zealand – was his joyous self while fielding pointed questions about his dwindling returns.

When asked how he was working on his game 'behind the curtains', a tongue-in-cheek reply ensued: "*Parde ke peeche tho nahin kiya mein. Khula ground hee tha. Udar hee batting karne gaya tha.* (I did not bat behind the curtain. I batted in an open ground itself)," Suryakumar said, evoking chuckles across the press conference hall at the VCA Stadium.

"I've been short of runs. But I can't change my identity. I have decided to keep doing what I have been doing in the last three or four years, which has given me a lot of success," Suryakumar said.

The skipper conveyed that his focus was on India's performance in the five-match series and the upcoming T20 World Cup, and not his individual numbers.

Milestone beckons: The opening match against New Zealand will be Suryakumar's 100th in the shortest format. K.R. DEEPAK

"If I were playing a singles sport like table tennis or lawn tennis, I would have given more thought to it. This is a team sport, and my first responsibility is to know how the team is doing. I'm happy if I perform in the team's victory. If not, it doesn't matter, as it can happen. I have to look after the other 14 players also, as I've been appointed as the leader of everyone," he explained.

Suryakumar was quick to point out that the Test and ODI series losses to New Zealand are history, and that India has been doing exceptionally well in the shortest format.

"The Test series loss was long back. The T20Is are about to start, and we'll talk about that.

"We've been playing this format well. There will be pressure, but where's the fun in playing if there is no pressure?"

Gautami proves her worth on the big stage

WPL-4

Vivek Krishnan
VADODARA

Gautami Naik's debut for Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the Women's Premier League came against UP Warriorz in Navi Mumbai on January 12. Having watched the first three seasons from afar, this was an opportunity on the big stage for the 27-year-old that had taken a fair share of time and toil.

No longer than a week later, against Gujarat Giants on Monday, Gautami became the first uncapped Indian to score a half-century in the WPL.

That she was asked to lead the RCB players off the field after victory was the cherry on top.

Gautami's 73 (55b, 7x4, 1x6) on Monday demonstrated her maturity. "We had been working for 12-13 years for a moment like this. Yesterday's innings vindicated that hard work," Gautami's coach, Avinash Shinde, told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

For Gautami to rise from the obscurity of domestic cricket, where she has played for Nagaland, Baroda and Maharashtra, is a testament to her perseverance. Belonging to Pune, she switched to Nagaland in 2021 when a chance to break into Maharashtra's senior team appeared remote. The turning point, according to Shinde, arrived in 2023 when former India wicketkeeper Kiran More was commentating on a women's exhibition game in the Maharashtra Premier League.

Gautami. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With Gautami, who by now had left Nagaland, showing spark, More got in touch and facilitated a move to Baroda as well as a trial with Mumbai Indians.

Having returned to Maharashtra ahead of the 2025-26 season, opening the batting with Smriti for Ratnagiri Jets in the MPL was another pivotal step in Gautami's long-awaited ambition to taste the big league. Now that she is there, it is up to Gautami to make the most of it.

Jemimah and Lee help DC down MI

Vivek Krishnan
VADODARA

In modern-day T20 cricket, a target of 155 is fancied by the chasing team on most days. In a game that rested on fine margins, it wasn't quite straightforward for Delhi Capitals against Mumbai Indians in the Women's Premier League on Tuesday, but Jemimah Rodrigues and Co. eventually sailed home with seven wickets in hand and an over to spare at the Kotambi Stadium. Capitals had solid contributions from Jemimah (51 n.o., 37b, 5x4, 1x6) and Lizelle Lee (46, 28b, 7x4, 1x6), overshadowing Nat Sciver-Brunt's half-century for MI.

In sharp contrast to MI's slow start, DC raced off the blocks as Lee and Shafali Verma stitched together a 63-run opening stand in 7.3 overs. They seldom spared the loose deliveries, and seemed keen on finishing proceedings in a hurry.

But MI regained a semblance of control when 20-year-old left-arm spinner Vaishnavi Sharma, who was drafted into the squad on Tuesday as a replacement for the injured G. Kamalini for the remainder of the campaign, bowled Shafali and punched the air in delight.

Two quiet overs later, Lee was adjudged stumped by Rahila Firdous off Amanjot Kaur by third umpire Ajitesh Argal. Lee's frustration was compounded by Argal taking eight minutes to make the decision. While Jemimah and Laura Wolvaardt built a steady partnership to take DC closer, another potential twist came in the 17th over when the latter was run out at the non-striker's end as a straight drive by Jemimah was deflected off Sciver-Brunt. It was important for Jemimah to hold her composure at that juncture, and she did just that.

Finishing it off: Skipper Jemimah took DC home. X@WPLT20

Earlier, Sciver-Brunt (65 n.o., 45b, 6x4, 2x6) and Harmanpreet Kaur (41, 33b, 7x4) contributed heavily to MI's total of 154 for five. Having joined hands when MI was 21 for two, the duo added 78 runs off 58 deliveries. But contributions from the rest of the line-up were sparse.

Left-arm spinner Shree Charani can take much of the credit for that. The 21-year-old dismissed the well-set Harmanpreet, Nicola Carey and Amanjot to finish with figures of 4-0-33-3.

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS
Sajeevan Sajana b Nandani 9 *(9b, 1x4)*, Hayley Matthews b Kapp 12 *(15b, 2x4)*, Nat Sciver-Brunt (not out) 65 *(45b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Harmanpreet Kaur c Hamilton b Shree Charani 41 *(33b, 7x4)*, Nicola Carey c Sneh b Shree Charani 12 *(11b, 1x4)*, Amanjot Kaur c Lee b Shree Charani 3 *(3b)*, Sanskriti Gupta (not out) 10 *(5b, 1x6)*; Extras (nb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 154.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-21 (Sajana, 3.5 overs), 2-21 (Matthews, 4.1), 3-99 (Harmanpreet, 13.5), 4-130 (Carey, 17.1), 5-134 (Amanjot, 17.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Kapp 4-0-8-1, Hamilton 4-0-36-0, Nandani 4-0-36-1, Shree Charani 4-0-33-3, Sneh 3-0-27-0, Shafali 1-0-14-0.

DELHI CAPITALS
Shafali Verma b Vaishnavi 29 *(24b, 6x4)*, Lizelle Lee st. Rahila b Amanjot 46 *(28b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Laura Wolvaardt run out 17 *(19b)*, Jemimah Rodrigues (not out) 51 *(37b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Marizanne Kapp (not out) 10 *(6b, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for three wkts. in 19 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-63 (Shafali, 7.3), 2-84 (Lee, 10.2), 3-118 (Wolvaardt, 16.1).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Ismail 4-0-26-0, Carey 1-0-13-0, Sciver-Brunt 4-0-42-0, Sanskriti 1-0-13-0, Amanjot 3-0-21-1, Vaishnavi 4-0-20-1, Matthews 2-0-19-0. **Toss:** DC; **PoM:** Jemimah; *Capitals won by seven wickets with an over to spare.*

Holding on: After taking a 3-2 lead, the Toofans defenders (in white) and goalkeeper kept HIL GC at bay. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Toofans move to third

HIL - MEN

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

In a must-win contest, Hyderabad Toofans maintained its composure to register a 3-2 victory against HIL GC in the teams' final round-robin match of the Hockey India League at the Kalinga Stadium here on Tuesday.

Though the two teams finished the league stage with 11 points, Toofans' third win helped it leapfrog HIL GC to the third spot on better goal difference. Ranchi Royals, placed second, also has 11 points with a match to go.

Toofans, who relied on their fluid midfield and active forward-line, made early inroads and took a 2-1 lead in the first quarter.

Following an ill-trapped penalty corner, an alert Zachary Wallace shot home to put Toofans ahead in the sixth minute.

Even though HIL GC drew parity through Kane Russell who flicked home to the top right corner, Toofans regained their lead immediately as Amandeep Lakra found the target off his side's second penalty corner.

Shilanand slotted home after a miscued penalty corner injection and extended Toofans' lead in the second period.

Russell converted the second of two consecutive penalty corners to make it 3-2 early in the third quarter, but Toofans held on.

JSW Soorma HC, in a tough situation with a minus goal difference, scripted a 2-1 win over top-placed Kalinga Lancers.

The results: Hyderabad Toofans 3 (Zachary Wallace 6-pc, Amandeep Lakra 8-pc, Shilanand Lakra 27-pc) bt HIL GC 2 (Kane Russell 8-pc, 31-pc); JSW Soorma HC 2 (Jeetpal 23, Vivek Sagar Prasad 38-pc) bt Vedanta Kalinga Lancers 1 (Liam Henderson 48).

INBRIEF

Osaka makes a stylish entry at the Australian Open

Naomi Osaka floated onto Rod Laver Arena at the Australian Open in a jellyfish-inspired outfit before winning over Croatian Antonia Ruzic to reach the second round on Tuesday. The former World No. 1 raised gasps in the crowd as she entered in a riot of colour, toting a white parasol, a matching broad- brimmed hat and wearing a marine-themed top complete with pastel yellow tassels on the sleeves.

Kostoulas stunner rescues Brighton a draw

Charalampos Kostoulas snatched a late equaliser via an overhead kick as Brighton survived Marcus Tavernier's controversial penalty to rescue a 1-1 draw against Bournemouth on Monday.

The results: Premier League: Brighton 1 (Kostoulas 90+1) drew with Bournemouth 1 (Tavernier 32-pen). **LaLiga:** Elche 2 (Febas 14, Valera 55) drew with Sevilla 2 (Adams 75, 90+2-pen). **Serie A:** Cremonese 0 drew with Verona 0; Lazio 0 lost to Como 3 (Baturina 2, Paz 24, 49).

Al Fateh FC gets the better of ADE FC in BDFA league

Al Fateh FC defeated ADE FC 3-2 in the BDFA 'B' division football league in Bengaluru on Tuesday. In another match, South India FC beat Pillanna Garden FC 2-1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Galatasaray vs Atletico Madrid, Qarabag vs Eintrach Frankfurt (11.15 p.m.); Marseille vs Liverpool, Newcastle vs PSV, Slavia Prague vs Barcelona, Juventus vs Benfica, Chelsea vs Pafos, Bayern vs Union Saint-Gilloise, Atalanta vs Athletic Club (1.30 a.m., Thursday).

LIVE TELECAST

Men's U-19 World Cup: SS Select 2 & JioHotstar, 1 p.m.
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 1.30 p.m. & 5.30 a.m. (Thursday)
India vs New Zealand: 1st T20I, Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m.
HIL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7.30 p.m.
Afghanistan vs West Indies: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 8 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 11.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Sinner and Keys begin title defence well

The Italian second seed, going for a 'three-peat', has it easy before his opponent retires with injury while the American ninth seed progresses in straight sets; Tsitsipas manages to avoid a first-round exit for the second year in a row; crowd favourite Monfils bids farewell to Melbourne Park

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Reuters
MELBOURNE

Jannik Sinner and Madison Keys made winning starts to their Australian Open title defences on Tuesday but former champion Naomi Osaka made the biggest splash on day three of the tournament with a dazzling entrance before her match.

Second-seeded Sinner, aiming for a third straight title at Melbourne Park, spent only 68 minutes on court in his first outing of the 2026 season before Hugo Gaston retired because of injury while losing 6-2, 6-1.

The Italian consoled the weeping Frenchman and wished him well in his recovery.

"I was very happy," said Sinner. "We put in a lot of work to be back on court and it felt great. Obviously not the way you want to win the match, but from my side I'm very happy to be back on court."

American Keys made a shaky start to her maiden Grand Slam title defence before posting a 7-6(6), 6-1 victory over Ukrainian Oleksandra Oliynykova.

The 2019 and 2021 Melbourne Park champion Osaka's game was at times less impressive than her self-designed outfit but the Japanese finished strongly to beat Croatian Antonia Ruzic 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 and take her place in the second round.

Leylah Fernandez, the 2021 U.S. Open runner-up, was not so fortunate and exited with a 6-2, 7-6(1) loss to Janice Tjen, who became the first Indonesian to win a match at the Australian Open in 28 years.

There were comfortable first-round wins for fifth seed Elena Rybakina, Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Belinda Bencic and 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko.

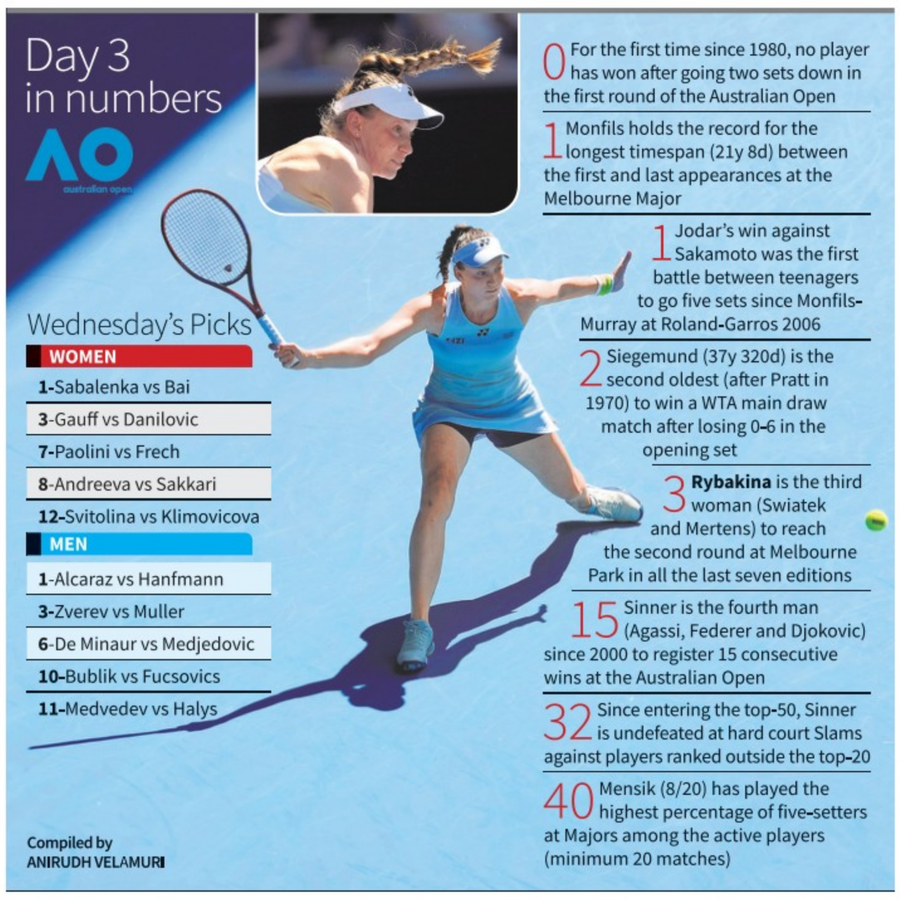
In the men's draw, 2023 finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas had to rally to beat Japan's Shintaro Mochizuki and avoid a first-round exit for the second year in a row.

Sinner's compatriot Lorenzo Musetti, the fifth seed, also advanced after his opponent Raphael Collignon retired, while eighth seed Ben Shelton, who lost to Sinner in last year's semifinals, beat Ugo Humbert in three tight sets.

Taylor Fritz, seeded nine, needed four to get past the Frenchman Valentin Royer.

Melbourne Park's favourite Frenchman of recent years, Gael Monfils, bid farewell to the tournament for the 20th and final time after a four set loss to Australian qualifier Dane Sweeny.

"My journey started in 2003 with you guys, now we are in 2026 and somehow it's the finish line. Thank you so much for this amazing ride," the 39-year-old, who will retire at the end of the season, told the crowd after receiving a standing ovation.


Day 3 in numbers
AO
australian open
Wednesday's Picks
WOMEN
1-Sabalenka vs Bai
3-Gauff vs Danilovic
7-Paolini vs Frech
8-Andreeva vs Sakkari
12-Svitolina vs Klimovicova
MEN
1-Alcaraz vs Hanfmann
3-Zverev vs Muller
6-De Minaur vs Medjedovic
10-Bublik vs Fucsovics
11-Medvedev vs Halys
Compiled by ANIRUDH VELAMURI
0 For the first time since 1980, no player has won after going two sets down in the first round of the Australian Open
1 Monfils holds the record for the longest timespan (21y 8d) between the first and last appearances at the Melbourne Major
1 Jodar's win against Sakamoto was the first battle between teenagers to go five sets since Monfils-Murray at Roland-Garros 2006
2 Siegemund (37y 320d) is the second oldest (after Pratt in 1970) to win a WTA main draw match after losing 0-6 in the opening set
3 Rybakina is the third woman (Swiatek and Mertens) to reach the second round at Melbourne Park in all the last seven editions
15 Sinner is the fourth man (Agassi, Federer and Djokovic) since 2000 to register 15 consecutive wins at the Australian Open
32 Since entering the top-50, Sinner is undefeated at hard court Slams against players ranked outside the top-20
40 Mensik (8/20) has played the highest percentage of five-setters at Majors among the active players (minimum 20 matches)

IMPORTANT RESULTS

First round: Men: 5-Musetti (Ita) bt Collignon (Bel) 4-6, 7-6(3), 7-5, 3-2 retd.; 9-Fritz (USA) bt Royer (Fra) 7-6(5), 5-7, 6-1, 6-3; 16-Mensik (Cze) bt Busta (Esp) 7-5, 4-6, 2-6, 7-6(1), 6-3; Quinn (USA) bt 23-Griekspoor (Ned) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2; 8-Shelton (USA) bt Humbert (Fra) 6-3, 7-6(2), 7-6(5); 15-Khachanov (Rus) bt Michelsen (USA) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3; 22-Darderi (Ita) bt Garín (Chi) 7-6(5), 7-5, 7-6(3); Spizzirri (USA) bt 28-Fonseca (Bra) 6-4, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2; 2-Sinner (Ita) bt Gaston (Fra) 6-2, 6-1, 0-0 retd.; 31-Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Mochizuki (Jpn) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; Sweeny (Aus) bt Monfils (Fra) 6-7(3), 7-5, 6-4, 7-5. **Doubles:** Martinez & Munar (Esp) bt Poonacha (Ind) & Isaro (Tha) 7-6(3), 7-5.
Women: Tjen (Ina) bt 22-Fernandez (Can) 6-2, 7-6(1); 9-Keys (USA) bt Oliynykova (Ukr) 7-6(6), 6-1; 24-Ostapenko (Lat) bt Sramkova (Svk) 6-4, 6-4; 5-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Juvan (Slo) 6-4, 6-3; 10-Bencic (Sui) bt Boulter (GBr) 6-0, 7-5; 31-Kalinskaya (Rus) bt Kartal (GBr) 7-6(3), 6-1; Valentova (Cze) bt 30-Joint (Aus) 6-4, 6-4; 16-Osaka (Jpn) bt Ruzic (Cro) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; Siegemund (Ger) bt 18-Samsonova (Rus) 0-6, 7-5, 6-4.
Fallen seeds: Men: 23-Griekspoor, 28-Fonseca.
Women: 18-Samsonova, 22-Fernandez, 30-Joint.

Bangladesh remains adamant on not travelling to India for T20 WC

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Bangladesh government's sports advisor Asif Nazrul on Tuesday reiterated that under no condition would the national team travel to India for the T20 World Cup, despite an ultimatum from the International Cricket Council to the Bangladesh Cricket Board on deciding its participation by Wednesday.

If BCB remains adamant on not travelling to India for the 20-team tournament, Scotland is likely to replace Bangladesh as per current rankings. "I am not aware that Scotland will be included in our place. If the ICC bows to pressure from the BCCI and tries to impose pressure on us by setting unreasonable conditions, we will not accept those conditions," Nazrul told reporters.

"In the past, there are examples that Pakistan said that they will not travel to India and ICC changed the venue. We have asked to change the venue on logical ground and we cannot be pressurised to play in India by putting illogical pressure," he added. The crisis was triggered by the removal of Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from Kolkata Knight Riders' roster for this year's IPL on the BCCI's instructions for unspecified "developments all around".

Citing security concerns and national pride, the BCB responded by announcing its national team won't travel to India for its group stage games in Kolkata and Mumbai.

The BCB wants to play each of the four group stage matches in Sri Lanka, where the marquee India-Pakistan clash will also be held as per the mutually agreed arrangement for ICC events until 2027.

Bangladesh is in Group C along with West Indies, Italy, England and Nepal.

In its last meeting with the ICC officials in Dhaka, the BCB had proposed swapping positions with Ireland in Group B, which features tournament co-host Sri Lanka, Australia, Oman and Zimbabwe. Such a move would allow Bangladesh to remain in Sri Lanka for entirety of its group-stage engagements.

Standoff: The ICC has told the BCB to decide on its participation by Wednesday. FILE PHOTO

UP Dominators fights back against Delhi Dangal Warriors

PWL

Sports Bureau
NOIDA

UP Dominators produced a stirring comeback from 4-1 down to defeat Delhi Dangal Warriors 5-4 in the 2026 Pro Wrestling League at the Noida Indoor Stadium on Monday.

After Delhi surged ahead through a strong opening led by Anastasiya Alpyeyeva and a dominant win from captain Sujeet Kalkal, UP Dominators turned the tie on its head through under-20 World wrestling champion Tapsya Gahlawat, skipper Nisha Dahiya, and a decisive final-bout masterclass from two-time World Championship medallist Antim Panghal.

The results: Men: 86kg: Vafaeipour Hadi Bakhtiar (Delhi Dangal Warriors) bt Mykhailov Vasyl (UP Dominators) (7-4); **74kg:** Turan Bayramov (Delhi Dangal Warriors) bt Abhimanyu Mandwal (UP Dominators) (3-0); **65kg:** Sujeet Kalkal (Delhi Dangal Warriors) bt Vishal Kali Raman (UP Dominators) (20-2) on technical superiority.

57kg: Rahul Deswal (UP Dominators) bt Shubham Kaushik (Delhi Dangal Warriors) (8-5); **125kg:** Jaspooran Singh (UP Dominators) bt Ronak (Delhi Dangal Warriors) (3-1).

Women: 76kg: Anastasiya Alpyeyeva (Delhi Dangal Warriors) bt Ojo Damola Hannah (UP Dominators) (11-2); **57kg:** Tapsya Gahlawat (UP Dominators) bt Karla Godinez Gonzalez (Delhi Dangal Warriors) (8-2).

62kg: Nisha Dahiya (UP Dominators) bt Anjli (Delhi Dangal Warriors) (9-5); **53kg:** Antim Panghal (UP Dominators) bt Saarika (Delhi Dangal Warriors) (17-2) on technical superiority.

SNAPSHOTS

Triumphant: Jain University defeated MS University (Tirunelveli) 1-0 in the final of the South Zone inter university hockey championship at Sathyabama University (Chennai).

Gukesh holds top seed Arjun

WIJK AAN ZEE: Top seed Arjun Erigaisi could not get past the defenses of world champion D. Gukesh as the two Indians agreed to a draw in the third round of the Tata Steel Masters on Monday. With 10 rounds still to come in the first super tournament of the year, Arjun, Abdusattorov and Hans Niemann were joined by Matthias Bluebaum in the lead on two points out of a possible three.

The results (round 3): Arjun Erigaisi (2) drew with D. Gukesh (1.5), Aravindh Chithambaram (1.5) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (2); Hans Moke Niemann (2) drew with Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus (1.5); Vincent Keymer (1) lost to Matthias Bluebaum (2); Javokhir Sindarov (1.5) drew with Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 1.5).

Amelia Valverde appointed women's football team coach

NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Tuesday announced the appointment of Costa Rica's Amelia Valverde as the head coach of the Indian senior women's team. Valverde, 39, has joined the Indian camp in Antalya where the Blue Tigresses are preparing for the AFC Women's Asian Cup, scheduled for March in Australia. She joins the existing coaching staff including Crispin Chettri, Priya PV, and Mario Aguiar.

As part of Valverde's support staff, goalkeeping coach Eli Avila and strength and conditioning coach Jose Sanchez will also join the Indian team.

Gambhir, McCullum might still be undone by the old metric

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Those calling for the heads of contemporary cricket's two most influential coaches, India's Gautam Gambhir and England's Brendon McCullum ignore that the metric by which success is measured might be changing. England lost the Ashes series in Australia while India's recent loss to New Zealand followed losses at home and away.

Sometimes it seems that today's coaches are not judged on results alone – although Gambhir must hope that India win the World T20 next month so he can breathe more freely. They are judged on team culture. Are the players happy? Are they improving? Are they expressing themselves?

McCullum has said he is not for "being told what to do." That sounds like something Gambhir, less articulate and more aggressive, might say too.

A consequence of the modern game's formats and data-driven approach is the modified role of the coach. The cricket coach once existed in the margins. He was there to oil the machinery, not redesign it. The captain ruled, the selectors ordained, and the coach was merely the man in the background, often in a floppy hat, occasionally blamed when nothing else worked.

The modern coach has moved from the shadows to the centre as strategist, psychologist, data interpreter, public speaker, and damage controller. In the amateur era, coaching was considered unnecessary. Great players were assumed to be self-explanatory texts. A coach, if appointed, was often a senior figure whose authority came from past deeds rather than present ideas. He was there to nod wisely, occasionally say "well played", and ensure the nets were rolled properly. The captain decided the team, the batting order, and the tactics.

Curator of knowledge

Video analysis, fitness metrics, opposition data, and the tyranny of spreadsheets have transformed the coach into a curator of knowledge. Someone had to connect the numbers to the humans.

The captain still led on the field, but the coach now shaped strategy. Preparation was power. T20 compressed authority. The coach, who lived in the future, suddenly had more influence than the captain who lived in the present.

Players are brands, investments, and fragile assets. They are managed across formats, franchises, and national loyalties. Someone must coordinate all this to keep chaos at bay. Welcome, the McCullums and the Gambhirs.

The relationship between coach and captain is crucial, but they are human beings, with egos and failings. When tensions arise, it is unclear who ranks higher. This ambiguity is new, and cricket is still adjusting to it.

A Virat Kohli as skipper is unhappy with an Anil Kumble as coach, and the latter loses his job. A Gambhir possibly has issues with Rohit Sharma, and out goes the captain. Gambhir is the closest cricket has had to a football supremo.

This has to do as much with his cricketing credentials as his political ones as a prominent member of the ruling party.

England's coach thinks up a system first and then squeezes his players into it. Bazball is not everybody's cup of tea, but it was successful. Many who supported it initially are its biggest critics now. This might qualify as bad faith, but critics are human too. If McCullum loses his job, what made England cricket so attractive might be jettisoned. Skipper Ben Stokes has been supportive of his coach. Indian captains rarely express opinions beyond the 'official', so we don't know what they think.

Losing coaches often say that a coach is only as good as the players under him. Had India won the last Test series in England (they drew 2-2), both debutant skipper Shubhman Gill and coach Gambhir would have received credit, although how much each got is not easily calculated.

And that's the issue. You can't put a number on team spirit, culture etc. except by the old metric. Team spirit leads to wins. The culture in a winning team is fine. Sometimes the abstract is easier to understand than the concrete. Those asking for the heads of McCullum and Gambhir are saying in effect that only results matter.

Reality in cricket has moved beyond the methods to calculate it. The important question belongs to the old metric, however: Did the decisions lead to victory? McCullum and Gambhir are caught in the cleft between process and outcome, between the old and the new.